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Ten Cents

GOVERNMENT OPERATION BY PROXY— AN ENGLISH EXPERIMENT

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TWO wrongs do not make a right even in war. English use of our flag on merchant ships gives Germany no right to disregard our flag on American ships. Resort to a ruse of war by one belligerent gives another belligerent no license to disregard the rights of a neutral. Unfortunately, established precedent gives England the right to display our flag or other neutral flag to facilitate a ship's escape from capture or injury, but no precedent exists for Germany's making such use of our flag by England an excuse for disregarding the American flag on an American ship. The precedent in the first case is to be regretted, for it involves obvious inconvenience and may lead to real danger to neutral ships, but to this practice of doubtful justification we cannot possibly see added the practice of ignoring our flag when rightfully borne because it is sometimes assumed by those who have no real right to it.

TIME was when traders in New York looked to the morning's London prices for American stocks to guide them in their transactions here. The opposite of that is true now. London follows in the morning the prices made here the day before. That is a very small step toward giving New York pre-eminence as a financial market, but it is a step in that direction.

ANOTHER such step, and a really important one, is made possible by the rulings laid down by the Federal Reserve Board last week for the exercise by the Reserve Banks of the right conferred by the Federal Reserve act to buy and discount acceptances. This is a field in which the Reserve Banks can do a great deal to facilitate our trade abroad by adding to the facilities which our banks have previously offered to their customers, facilities which the banks in the past have not been in a position to extend. Our entrance into this field is all the more opportune at this time because of Europe's inability to finance the world's international trade during a time of widespread war. We are having the unusual experience of not only selling goods abroad, but of supplying the funds for the purchase of those goods. Besides our trading profit we are making a money market profit, and to the extent to which we are able to do that without inconveniencing home borrowers or without adding to the cost of conducting home trade we are enjoying a double advantage.

An illustration of the way the transaction works is afforded in the trade we are now doing with Russia. To the extent of \$25,000,000 that trade is being done on money borrowed here on short-time bills. The effect of the discounting of those bills appeared in Saturday's bank statement, which, curiously enough, showed an increase in loans of almost precisely that amount.

No doubt we are making a good profit on the goods we are selling to Russia, and to that must be added the 5 per cent. and more which the banks will earn on these bills. The money used for that purpose was lying idle in the banks and yielding them nothing.

WHEN the Business Conduct Committee of the New York Stock Exchange took up for consideration last week the market in Mexican Petroleum common stock with the object of quieting rumors regarding the character of the trading in that stock it found itself under the necessity of inquiring into a situation in which several members of the committee had played a prominent part as brokers. The specialist in the stock, moreover, is one of the Governors of the Exchange and a member of the committee which furnishes the chief avenue of communication between the Stock Exchange and the public. Without any thought of questioning the impartiality of the conclusions which the committee reached regarding this particular market episode, is it reasonable for the Stock Exchange to expect the public at large to be convinced of the impartiality of human beings under such circumstances?

THE "destruction" of our foreign trade continues at an alarming rate. The Senate should hurry with the Ship Purchase bill, for much longer delay will bring such a credit trade balance in favor of this country that we shall be at a loss to know what to do with the money which will be paid to us. In the first week of February the exports at thirteen of the principal ports, handling about seven-eighths of our foreign trade, showed an excess of \$36,000,000 over imports, a record never before attained.

ONE of the many anomalies in the railroad rate structure is brought out strikingly by the fact that a decision by the Commerce Commission which in effect calls for a reduction in freight rates should be received as proof of a more lenient disposition toward the railroads on the part of the commission. In the readjustment of its zone differentials permitted by the commission in the decision which it made public last week in the intermountain case lower rates to Pacific Coast points can be established by the railroads to meet increased water competition without a corresponding decrease in the rates to intermediate points. Therein lies the advantage to the railroads in this permission to widen the difference between rates to intermountain points and to Pacific Coast points by reducing the latter. The law of competition was forcing down the rates to cities on the Pacific Coast. Under the 1911 ruling of the commission that in turn would have forced down the rates to all intermediate points between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast. The railroads have been granted freedom to reduce the rates to the further points without correspondingly reducing those to nearer-by points. It is the latest of a long series of efforts to accommodate the long-and-short-haul clause of the Interstate Commerce act to economic necessity.

IN setting forth the details of the proposed \$100,000,000 issue of New York Central 6 per cent. debentures which are to be sold by the road at a net price of something less than 97½, President Harris points out that this capital will cost about as much as it has cost to obtain these funds on the succession of short-term issues which are now to be replaced by this long-term financing. It has often been argued in favor of short-term notes as a means of financing capital outlays that they permit a railroad or other

borrower to pick out the most advantageous time to float long-time securities and that thus their use effects a large saving in interest over the rate which would have to be paid were long-time issues put out in the first instance. The plan has not worked this way in the New York Central case, nor has it in many other instances. Short-term financing is not the proper form of financing for permanent capital outlays. Short-term financing has proved not only vexatious but expensive. It is one of the favorable signs of the times that railroads and other borrowers are getting rid of their short-time obligations by replacing them with long-time issues. They have in the past relied too much upon the money market in the narrower sense of the term. They are well advised now in addressing themselves to the capital market. They might have saved money by doing this a long time ago.

THE Ohio Supreme Court in a suit by a customer against a brokerage house has ruled, according to the outline of the decision which the wires have carried, that buying and selling stocks on margin is gambling. It is very often nothing more than that, but not always. The man who buys some stock because somebody has told him that somebody else has told him that it is going up five points or ten is undoubtedly gambling, and the broker who buys stock for a customer on insufficient margin is also gambling, as he often finds out to his loss. But buying stocks on margin is not necessarily gambling any more than buying real estate or merchandise on margin is gambling. It is difficult to point out the line, difficult perhaps even to discern the line, but it is there. And because it is difficult to determine just where the line lies it is a very good practice to keep well within the zone of safety.

THREE is a very wide difference, incidentally, between the man who "gambles" in stocks and the man who engages personally in some business venture on very small capital. In the latter case he puts his work into the undertaking, and the wisdom and energy with which he works will greatly influence the outcome. In the former case, after putting his money at stake, he is powerless to influence the result of the venture.

WE wonder if Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo was thinking of the alleged Postal Service surplus when he wrote in his statement to the Senate on the shipping situation, referring to the net earnings of the Panama Steamship Line: "These net revenues are truly net; that is to say, they are net after maintenance and depreciation, including extraordinary repairs, are charged against the property." By charged against the property is meant apparently charged against the revenues. That treatment would be altogether too heroic for the postal surplus.

OF the two ways of overcoming a Government deficit the more acceptable to those directly responsible for the deficit and for its correction is to raise more revenue through increased taxation. The more desirable alternative of cutting down expenses to bring them within the revenues is seldom chosen. There is cause for satisfaction, therefore, in the fact that the Administration in dealing with the deficit in the Federal Government's accounts for this fiscal year to date—it amounts to \$80,475,000—is giving some thought to cutting down outgo. There is no doubt that it could be done that way without the country suffering in the least.

Relevant Annotations

By *The Onlooker*

EVERYTHING more or less happens to be what it is, where it is and as it is—like seaports and rivers and vast spaces of land over which things cannot be transported by ships but must go on wheels.

In the same way it happens that a man, instead of being at Chicago, on the Great Lakes, or at San Francisco, on the Pacific seaboard, is at the pent-up town of Reno, Nev., and begins doing business there. The business he happens into requires him to have freight transported from the Atlantic seaboard, and the railroad charges him \$500 per car for the haul. He happens to discover that a man in San Francisco gets a carload of the same kind of freight from the same place on the Atlantic seaboard, and pays the railroad only \$300 for the haul, though the distance is 500 miles further to San Francisco than to Reno.

He thinks it an outrage. He can't understand it at first. If a carload of freight stops for him at Reno the charge is \$500, but if it goes through Reno without stopping and runs 500 miles further to San Francisco the charge is \$200 less! It does seem absurd. It seems as if it were without reason or scientific basis, as if it had just happened that way, and so it has.

The Reno man complains to the railroad. He is told it is the water competition to San Francisco that makes the difference. The railroad rate must match the ocean rate, or all the heavy freight will go by boat. That is the doctrine of charging what the traffic will bear. The Reno man thinks it over and begins to feel very indignant. A carload of freight to San Francisco will bear only \$300, but a carload of the same freight to Reno will bear \$500 because Reno has no water competition and can't help itself. Is that just? Is it decent? The railroad people decline to discuss either the justice or decency of it. They say only that it's the way the thing happened, which the Reno man takes for impertinence, or as an insult to his intelligence. Is it his fault that Reno is not on the Pacific seaboard? If a railroad can afford to haul freight to San Francisco for \$300 a car, why can't it afford to haul the same freight to Reno, 500 miles less distance, for at least the same price?

There are thousands of Renos that have happened to be located on the vast spaces of land that also happened to be, and there are tens of thousands of men who happen to be in those towns doing business, and now they organize boards of trade and begin to demand legislation to cure this outrage of a higher rate for a shorter than for a longer haul. Their statement of the case is irresistible. Why should a railroad charge more for a longer than for a shorter haul, except on the supposition that it is right to charge what the traffic will bear? Monstrous doctrine! It is not to be believed. There is surely a fair price to charge. It becomes a political issue, and gets before the Interstate Commerce Commission, which sides with the shippers. The railroads now begin to talk scientifically. Water competition is the principal thing, but, besides, owing to the fact of cheap transportation, huge sources of freight consumption have developed at water points, and the density of freight between Eastern points of origin and the Western water

points is much greater than between the same Eastern points of origin and land places like Reno. It is well known that the greater the density of freight the greater the economy of operation per ton of freight moved.

That is not very convincing. Railroad people are notoriously plausible with reasons which do not explain. The real reason, as everybody can see, is that the inland towns, being without water competition, are helpless, and the railroads, therefore, are charging all the traffic will stand. At last, Congress adopts an amendment to the Interstate Commerce Commission act, to read:

It shall be unlawful for any common carrier, subject to the provisions of this act, to charge or receive any greater compensation in the aggregate for the transportation of passengers or a like kind of property for a shorter than for a longer distance over the same line en route in the same direction, the shorter being included in the longer distance.

That is to settle it finally. It is to change the awkwardness of the way things happened. Towns inland are not to be penalized any longer for the accident of their being inland, and towns on water are no longer to enjoy the immemorial advantage of happening to get located in that suitable way. Thereupon, the Interstate Commerce Commission proceeds to give all the Renos relief. There are two ways. One way is to advance the long haul rates and the other way is to reduce the shorter haul rates. On second thought, there is only one way. If the long haul rates are raised the traffic will not move. It will go by water and not by rail. Therefore, the only way is to scale down the shorter haul rates, which the Interstate Commerce Commission orders done. That is to give Reno cheaper transportation. As San Francisco cannot be made to pay any more Reno may enjoy the privilege of paying less, and the railroads will have to stand it if they can. They have been long enough saying that the traffic had to stand it. The railroads appeal to the United States Supreme Court, which sustains the Interstate Commerce Commission.

That happened last year.

In the meantime the Interstate Commerce Commission discovers the Panama Canal. That is a waterway built by the United States Government across the Isthmus of Panama, to make it possible for a freight boat to go from New York to San Francisco in about fourteen days. That naturally will have a tendency to reduce transportation rates from one side of the American continent to the other. That is what it was built for; the strongest incentive was that the transcontinental railroads were charging what the traffic would bear, and were suspected of controlling the ships that had been going around South America to deliver freight on the Pacific Coast.

New and unexpected problems now arise. If the transcontinental railroads do not lower their long haul rates to meet this new water competition they will lose the traffic entirely. It will go by boat. That is nothing, some are heard to say; let them lose it. Let the freight move by the cheapest route, for the highest economic good. But others are to be heard from. If the traffic ceases to go by rail, then a lot of business incidental to that traffic will be

damaged and mayhap perish. That puts it on the other foot. The railroads are willing, even anxious, to reduce their long haul rates rather than lose the traffic, but they cannot at the same time reduce their rates to all the Renos without going bankrupt. What is now to be done?

The Interstate Commerce Commission debates that question for a long time, and then reverses itself and orders the railroads to do what they did of their own accord in the first place, that is, to charge less for a long haul than for a shorter one, in order to meet water competition. It is all the traffic will bear. Unless they do this the traffic will not continue to bear the railroad rates, but will take itself off by boats. There is no law to compel it to move in the more costly way. And, in the meantime, the rates to the inland Renos are not to be reduced for the reason that they have been already. The old disparity between inland and seaboard towns is thereupon re-created, and the inland towns cannot help themselves. They happen to be where they are. And the railroads will go on meeting water competition as they always have done, and low-grade freight will continue to move in parallel, partly by water and partly by rail, and at the same rates, as has always been the case before, though everybody knows that the cost of moving freight by rail is very much greater than the cost of moving it by water. That only happens to be true. There is no accounting for it. Man did not make the laws of resistance, and knows, in fact, very little about them.

If nothing were as it is, and we could begin with a clean slate, with all the knowledge that has come of doing things the wrong way, it would be easy to say:

"Heavy slow freight, go by water."

"Other fast freight, go by rail."

Then freight would move on the lines of least cost, and many problems would either be different or non-existent, but Reno might be non-existent, too. That has to be thought of. Our general economic development would have been very different.

The point of the whole matter is that everything is as it is and cannot be suddenly or much altered. Changes have to grow, as things grew to be as they are. That is to say, things may be made to grow differently by gentle pressure, but they cannot be changed all at once, as by an act of legislation seeking to equalize inland with water towns at the expense of the railroads, without which the inland towns had never been at all.

In this decision, as in the rate advance case, the Interstate Commerce Commission at last is obliged to admit that the work of the world has got to be done while theories wait. Conditions have happened and they are real. It gave the railroads in Eastern classification territory permission to raise their rates because they had to have more revenue. It now allows the transcontinental railroads permission to compete with water competition by charging what the traffic will bear, irrespective of anything else. It does not even apply its darling cost of service theory. It says, in fact, that the carriers should be allowed to compete with water competition for the long haul at any rates which cover the out-of-pocket cost. That is unscientific. There is not a railroad man alive who can figure accurately the out-of-pocket cost. But the traffic will move because it cannot be stopped. It may be wrong development, but that cannot be helped. It so happens.

Onlooker

FEB 15

Half-Filled Ships

Trade Is Mostly One Way Now, and Ships Which on Way to Europe Are Overburdened Return With Scant Cargoes—An Average View of Rates and Some Business Comment on the Shipping Bill

WE could double our present imports without requiring a single ship more than those now engaged in this trade, and if ships could be promptly unloaded on the other side we could, without finding any more ships for the carriage of goods, export a great deal more than we are now sending out. As it is our exports are so large that with imports reduced we are piling up a credit trade balance at an unprecedented rate.

It is against this background that are projected the arguments in favor of the purchase or construction of ships by the United States. That proposal is approved by some business men and vigorously opposed by others. Expressions of opinion which have come to *THE ANNALIST* from business men and bankers resident in widely separated parts of the country indicate a large preponderance of opinion against the bill, although some who oppose it are in favor of Government support for shipping supplied by private capital.

FOR SUPPORT, NOT OWNERSHIP

That is the stand taken among others by the Committee on Merchant Marine of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. At the recent meeting of the Chamber in Washington the committee reported these conclusions:

1. Your committee considers that, owing to the world's shipping conditions, Government aid is absolutely essential to upbuild our Merchant Marine, and we recommend it be freely and adequately given.

2. We believe the proposed Government plan of purchase or construction even, if operation is avoided by chartering to private persons, is wrong in principle and unwise if the result sought can be secured by private initiative supplemented by reasonable Government aid.

3. The success of other nations in giving direct aid to establish oversea mail and freight lines should not be disregarded, unless we are satisfied equally successful results can be accomplished by better, cheaper, and more efficient methods.

4. We advocate the formation of a Federal Shipping Board and a Marine Development Company, the company to advance funds to buyers or builders of steamers and the board to supervise our shipping, with full authority to handle all matters pertaining to our oversea transportation.

5. We strongly recommend that Government license to operate shall be taken out by all lines, domestic or foreign, engaged in shipping between ports of the United States and other countries.

6. We recommend amending the law for mail carrying purposes, the speed of first and second class steamers being lowered, and adequate compensation provided.

IN FAVOR OF BILL

Morris Stern, President of the Galveston Commercial Association, favors the bill as a temporary expedient:

Although opposed to permanent Government ownership I favor Ship Purchase bill as a temporary help toward establishing a better merchant marine, but we need, equally as bad, proper regulation of coastwise steamship traffic and coastwise rates.

Robert C. Howe, Manager of Armour & Co. at South Omaha, thinks that private capital would supply ships enough if our navigation laws made competition with foreign ships possible:

If our shipping laws were such that our ship-

ping could compete with foreign bottoms there would be plenty of private capital to purchase ships to go under our flag. We should go very slow at present, as Government purchase of foreign ships at this time would be liable to lead to serious international complications.

Alfred Grunsfeld, importer and jobber of Albuquerque, is decidedly against the bill:

Am very much opposed to the Ship Purchase bill, as I believe its effect would be disastrous from an economical standpoint.

Sol Wexler, President of the Whitney Central National Bank of New Orleans, and who is largely interested in the cotton trade of the South, opposes the bill. He favors a ship subsidy:

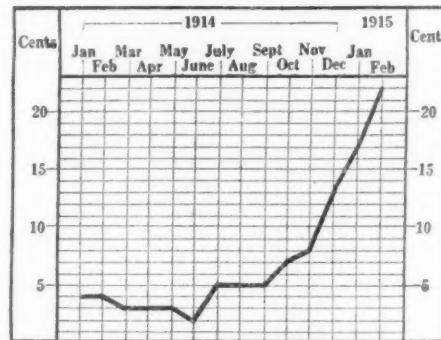
I am opposed to Ship Purchase bill for the reason that I am opposed to Governmental control of industrial and financial enterprise. I believe that a ship subsidy of 20 per cent, to offset difference in cost of construction and operation between this country and Europe would be sufficient inducement to capital to quickly establish a large merchant marine. The Government would be justified in such a subsidy by the privilege of use of merchant ships in time of war, and by the facilities afforded commercial interests by better mail and shipping opportunities.

OPPOSED ON BROAD GROUNDS

William M. Wood, President of the American Woolen Company, is against the proposal on the broad ground of opposition to Government ownership and Government operation of business enterprises. He is one of those who think that the right way to meet the situation is to encourage private capital:

As a business man I am firmly opposed to Government ownership and operation of steamship lines as I would be to Government ownership of railroads, telephones, and industries in general.

Grain Rates



The above chart shows the rate for shipping grain from New York to Liverpool on the 1st of each month since January, 1914. The upturn, which first began to appear in October, has carried the rate to 22 cents.

eral. I believe the purchase of interned ships would be perilous and unnecessarily expose the country to difficulties abroad. I believe that the best way to meet the emergency is to encourage home capital and enterprise to build ships here. Had this been done at the opening of the war relief would now be in sight for the cotton growers of the South and the farmers of the West. I believe the pressing of the shipping bill now in Congress has deterred shipowners from building vessels that would otherwise have been ordered.

Festus J. Wade of St. Louis, who took a leading part in the formulation of the plan for the \$100,000,000 cotton pool, is enthusiastically in favor of the bill:

I am heartily in favor of the Ship Purchase bill. I believe it the duty of every loyal American citizen to uphold the hands of the Administration during the crisis we are now going through. I regret beyond measure to note the selfish opposition the President is encountering.

Steamships outward bound from Eastern ports of the United States to seaports of Western Europe are flooded with applications for cargo room which cannot be handled because of shortage of tonnage. Beginning with September, when exports dis-

played a gain of \$46,000,000 over the preceding month as compared with an advance of no more than \$30,000,000 in the same period a year before, the congestion of freight room has grown more and more acute.

HALF-FILLED SHIPS

At the same time the movement of goods from Europe to American ports is light, and has been for several months. Ships returning from Liverpool, London, and Havre could bring from two to two and a half times the cargoes they are now carrying. The pressure is all on the eastward passage. Many vessels dispatched to the ports named return in ballast, or with very little cargo, because their owners do not desire to use the time for loading with goods that bring practically normal rates when cargoes are waiting at New York or Baltimore which will more than repay for the profitless trip from the other side.

The effect of war-brought shipping and trade conditions is displayed in the record of our exports and imports during the final six months of the year. Although the aggregate of exports declined more than 18 per cent. from the total in the July-December period of 1913, the fact that December's total of \$246,000,000 was within \$4,000,000 of the greatest December exports of the country shows that shippers met with good success despite the curtailment of shipping facilities. Imports declined sharply during the last six months of 1914:

EXPORTS

	1914.	1913.
July	\$154,138,947	\$160,990,778
August	110,367,494	187,909,020
September	156,052,333	218,240,001
October	194,711,170	271,861,464
November	205,878,333	245,539,042
December	246,266,047	233,195,628
Total	\$1,067,414,324	\$1,317,735,933

IMPORTS

	1914.	1913.
July	\$159,677,291	\$139,061,770
August	129,767,890	137,651,553
September	139,710,611	171,084,843
October	138,080,520	132,949,302
November	126,467,062	148,236,536
December	114,402,970	184,025,571
Total	\$808,106,344	\$933,009,575

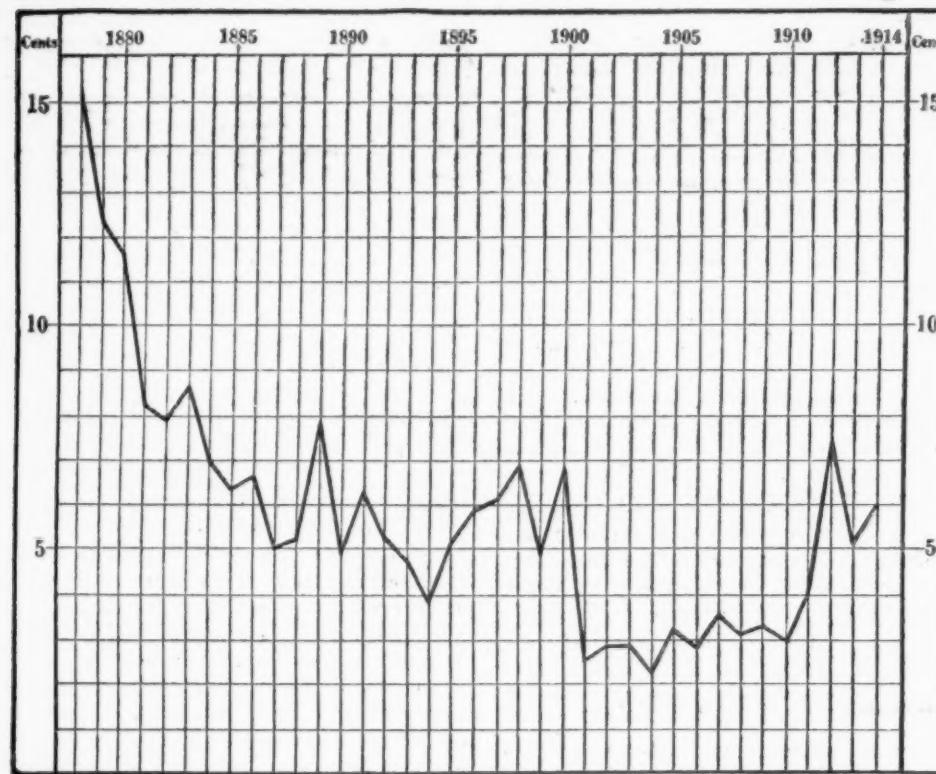
RATES

Freight rates have advanced greatly, with very large increases in some cases, as compared with charges current in 1913, although the rise does not appear so striking when compared with the rates of 1912. Wheat, for instance, which was carried at an average charge of 6 cents a bushel from New York to Liverpool in 1914 was shipped for 5½ cents as an average in the preceding year, and for 7½ cents in 1912.

Until abnormal shipping conditions were brought about by the withdrawal of German steamers from the ocean lanes, and by the destruction of vessels of Germany and of the allied powers, the freight on wheat was low enough to forecast an average rate for the year below that of 1913. Until the first of May the cost to Liverpool had been no more than 3 cents a bushel. After that the figure advanced gradually, in seasonal fashion, until in the late Fall the huge demand for grain in Europe, coupled with the lack of carriers, brought a marked rise in the charge.

The leading ports of the United Kingdom and France are not able to accommodate the inflow of traffic without delays which act to make more scanty the number of ships available on the North Atlantic. At the port of Havre the International Mercantile Marine has had its three vessels in regular service to that city tied up for two

Ocean Rates on Wheat, New York to Liverpool



The thirty-seven years' record of the average cost of shipping a bushel of wheat across the ocean, pictured in the chart above, shows that until 1904 there was, with few interruptions, a very decided tendency toward lower rates. From more than 15 cents per bushel in 1878, the first year and highest point shown in the chart, the rate had declined to an average of only 2½ cents in 1904. The increasing cost of doing business, and the fact that the world's commerce had been expanding more rapidly than the facilities for handling it then began to have their effect and the downward movement was checked.

No very pronounced advance was made in rates, however, until 1911, and the sharp rise which occurred then was continued through the next year and into the opening months of 1913. This resulted in a sudden and very great increase in activity in shipbuilding, so that in 1912 the world was building more ships than at any time in its history. The decline which came in the latter part of 1913, carrying the average for that year more than two cents lower than in the preceding one, was partially the result of business contraction and partially of greater competition through the completion of many ships, construction of which was started in the shipbuilding boom of 1912. The average for the year 1914 was less than one cent higher than in 1913, notwithstanding the increased rates which prevailed in the latter part of the year.

weeks waiting their turn to unload, and that line is not now booking shipments to France through Havre. The French line is considering the temporary diversion of two of its vessels in the Havre service to another port, and the lines running to Liverpool and London report exasperating delays that react on shippers on this side.

TONNAGE CLEARED

But despite the unavoidable detention of vessels in Europe for lack of pier facilities and of labor, monthly returns on clearances and entrances, the total tonnage cleared from ports of the United States in the six months ended with December was only 16 per cent. less than in the same period of 1913 and tonnage entered declined only 15 per cent. Naturally, the sharpest recession in both items occurred in August when German ships were withdrawn from the sea.

In September tonnage entered amounted to 3,895,014 tons, against 5,208,587 tons in the preceding September. In December, clearances aggregated only 2,938,917 tons, compared with 4,121,001 tons the year before. It would appear that the decline of close to 1,000,000 tons from September to the end of December must be accounted for, in part, at least perhaps entirely, by the fact that many ships are held in European ports awaiting their turn to unload.

Here is the record of steam tonnage entered and cleared in foreign trade at American ports for the last six months of last year:

ENTERED

	1914.	1913.
	Tonnage.	Tonnage.
July	5,497,485	5,379,413
August	4,924,508	5,043,355

THE ANNALIST

The City Fretful

Minimum Price Restrictions Are Proving Onerous and Treasury Is Slow in Providing Relief for Stagnant Trading.

Special Correspondence of *The Annalist*

LONDON, Feb. 2.

WHEN the City was running about and shaking its head last August, crying that none but the State could save it from disaster, the State stepped in. Most of the measures taken have commanded the City's approval and merited its gratitude, but the Stock Exchange is now experiencing some of the disadvantages of being tied to the apron strings of a Government department. When the regulations under which the Exchange reopened were made public last Christmas Eve it was distinctly understood that some of them, particularly the minimum prices which had been established in September for consols and other British and Colonial Government securities, were to be reconsidered before January was over. Experience showed that consols and most of the older 3 or 3½ per cent. Colonials were practically unsalable, except in ridiculously small amounts, at the minimum, which was 68½ in the case of consols.

PROPOSALS PIGEONHOLED

Accordingly the Stock Exchange set about finding a new level for minimum prices which would not make dealings impossible. The sub-committee charged with this task arrived at its conclusions, which included the reductions of the minimum for consols to 67 and that of other stocks in proportion. Meanwhile some bankers were raising opposition to any reduction whatsoever. The sub-committee, however, sent up its recommendations to the Treasury. But Mr. Lloyd George had gone to France to attend the conference of the allied Finance Ministers. So the sub-committee's proposals were put in a pigeonhole.

In the meantime investment business in the stocks affected was brought almost to a standstill by the uncertainty as to what the Government's decision was to be. If the State is to control the City even after the war it is clear that the Government departments will have to be educated up to a sense of their responsibilities to the public in the direction of frank and speedy attention to business matters. British Government departments may be more fossilized than those of other nations, but this is very doubtful, at least so far as Europe is concerned. The matter referred to is almost entirely of domestic interest, but it has been mentioned here as something in the nature of an Awful Warning for the budding Socialist.

4 QUIETUS TO THE MARKET

A further anomaly of the delay in question was connected with Steel common. The minimum prices in force here for American shares were presumably fixed with an eye to the convenience of New York at the English equivalent of the New York closing prices of July 30. Thus Steel's minimum was 50, British terms, while the shares were selling in New York at a little over 41, British terms. But nothing in the way of adjusting the minimum even of an American stock to American conditions can be done without the Treasury Department's consent. So there were no dealings here in stocks and the former activity of the American market was greatly reduced.

As to business here, buyers show no originality. Ever since the House reopened bargains have been most numerous in war loan, armament shares, oils, and Russian and Japanese bonds, and these are still the favorites, prices showing very little change. There is also a fair amount of business in British railway stocks, the common selling on a 5½ per cent. basis. In this market there are no minimum prices.

The general estimate now is that of the £80,000,000 lent to the Stock Exchange before the war, £37,000,000 by the banks proper and £43,000,000 by Colonial banks, discount brokers, and other financiers, £40,000,000 has been repaid to date. The repayments have been greatest to lenders other than the banks proper; for instance, the manager of a leading discount house had been repaid to the extent of 100 per cent. last December, and the other day the Chairman of an Australian bank told the shareholders that he had been repaid to the extent of 75 per cent. It will be remembered that lenders other than banks were provided by the State with the means of obtaining advances to the extent of 60 per cent. of the amounts loaned by transferring the securities to the Bank of England. This offer closed on Jan. 30, and of the £25,500,000 that might have been borrowed under the scheme less than £800,000 was actually so borrowed. Thus the technical position of the Stock Exchange as a whole is extraordinarily sound, a fact that cannot be without its natural influence when anything like normal conditions are restored.

A LOOK AHEAD

In steamship circles lack of sufficient tonnage for outgoing cargoes is looked upon as a serious handicap for our foreign trade, considered from the point of view of the present and immediate future. Looking ahead to the end of the war, however, ship owners are not disturbed over the shipping situation. The return to ocean lanes of ships now interned, together with the presence of the many now being built, will, in their opinion, quickly restore normal conditions when hostilities are brought to an end. In fact, there are some who predict that there will be a great surplusage of ships, like that which succeeded the end of the Boer war.

During the war in South Africa the British Government commandeered so many vessels of the British merchant marine that an incentive was supplied for much ship-

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FEB 15

An Experiment in Railroading

The British Government Has Been Running the Railways as a Single System, by Proxy as It Were—It Is Proving Expensive in Some Directions but the Cost of the Expedient, Which Is a War Measure, Is Guaranteed by the State

Special Correspondence of The Annalist

LONDON, Feb. 2.

THE railways of Great Britain are at present only one railway, so far as management, not finance, is concerned. The possibility of this co-ordination had frequently and vigorously been denied in this country, and has only become possible as the result of the war and military necessity. Such a striking change would seem to possess interest for any other country, such as the United States, in which the railways are still in private hands. Before considering its effects it may be well to state briefly what the position of railways was before the war to the State and to each other.

No railway can be built or extended in this country without the authority of Parliament. The acts of Parliament under which the existing railways were built contain a provision authorizing the State to take over the ownership of the railway in question from the company owning it. The principle on which in those cases compensation was to be paid to the shareholders was laid down in certain instances, but the amount of the compensation in question possesses no immediate interest, in that any scheme now suggested would be based purely on the conditions of the moment. In peace times the relations of the State to the railways are only those of an ordinary customer, except that the railways have to convey soldiers and sailors and some military freight at specially low rates.

STATE STEPS IN

England entered the European war on Aug. 4, and on the following day all the railway systems over the country came under Government control. This was done by an order in council, without Parliament being consulted. The action was, however, taken with the authority of an act passed in 1871, presumably the result of the great use made of railways for military purposes by both sides in the Franco-Prussian contest of 1870-71, the first "railway war" in Europe.

The powers of the Secretary of State for the Board of Trade, under which he controls the railways, have to be renewed week by week, but may be expected to continue as long as the war. The control is exercised through a committee of the General Managers, or Presidents of the railways themselves. The military authorities have no direct power over the working of the railways, or responsibility therefor; they can only give their orders to the railway authorities. Stray subalterns, for instance, cannot commandeer the Irish mail train, or requisition additional dining cars for the Brighton express.

It is of importance to recall what the position of the railways was in regard to each other last Summer. For the previous ten years unrestricted competition had been growing gradually less, and the result had been the creation of four groups of companies. They were groups, not amalgamations. Amalgamations belonged to the era of competition, the "race to the North,"

the fight for the Irish traffic, and so forth. In fact, in the case of one of the groups, amalgamation was proposed by the companies, but refused by Parliament. The four groups are as follows: First, the "Triple Entente"; this consists of the North Western, our premier railway, with a share capital of \$215,000,000, almost entirely free of "water," preferred capital of \$220,000,000, and bonds issued to the amount of nearly \$200,000,000, together with the Midland and the Lancashire & Yorkshire, whose capital, not allowing for "water," is rather less. This group serves Birmingham, Liverpool, Lancashire generally, and over allied lines Glasgow, Edinburgh, and the Highlands. The three lines were originally competitive for many points, such as Manchester, but now tickets are interchangeable and services non-competitive.

SERVICE LITTLE WORSENGED

The formation of the alliance caused a reduction in the timing of some very high-speed trains, but the service as a whole was not worsened; this remark is generally held by those with no political axe to grind to be applicable to the other fusions. The second group is the "East Coast" group, the Great Northern, Great Central, and Great Eastern, which serves Yorkshire and the Eastern counties, and, like the "Triple Entente," serves Scotland through allied Scottish companies. The third group consists of two lines, the Great Western and the South Western, the former being second only to the North Western in the size of its capital and owning the largest mileage of any individual company, about 3,000. It serves the west and southwest of England, South Wales, Birmingham, and Ireland. In regard to traffic to the two latter districts, the Great Western has in recent years made great extensions and improvements, but the competition with the North Western has been of a friendly and not too strenuous nature. The Great Western, for instance, has made no attempt to beat the two hours' time for the London-Birmingham trip of 112 miles, although its route is easier than that of its rival. The fourth group consists of the South Eastern & Chatham, itself an amalgamation, and the Brighton. This group serves the south and east of England, and though the management at present is well up to the British average, and even to the standard set by Mr. Henry W. Thornton, the American who manages the Great Eastern, the lines are physically far inferior to the three other groups, financially weaker, and hampered by great terminal difficulties in London.

EFFECT OF CO-ORDINATION

It will thus be apparent that co-ordination had gone far even before the war. Further, though London is the centre of all railway enterprise in this country, for historical reasons as well as because of its large population, which is in fact little greater than that of the Liverpool-Manchester area. As was said above, impartial opinion in regard to the effect of this co-ordination on the services obtained by the public either as to freight or passenger traffic is that it has done no harm. No rise in rates has followed, but that is off the point, because rate increases have to be sanctioned here as with you, by a public body, the Railway and Canal Commission. In certain cases services have been improved. Not between London and the

provinces, but in what are termed "cross-country" services.

It is not possible for any one outside a railway office to speak precisely of the effects of co-ordination in reducing working expenses. When co-ordination was just beginning to work generally, a new act of Parliament came into force regulating the manner in which the railways should present their accounts to their shareholders and to Parliament. The new form is a great improvement on the old, among the principal reforms being the separation of earnings of the subsidiary enterprises, such as steamships and hotels, from railway receipts proper, and a clearer method of showing the expenses of the different departments of a system. Unfortunately for the student this new form of accounts made it impossible to compare the earnings and expenses of 1913 with those of previous years. Railway companies have a bad reputation for wishing to make their accounts as obscure as possible, (hence the imposition of the new form,) and 1913 was the year in which economies were expected to show themselves first. One can only say that every leading railway except one was able to increase its distribution to the shareholders for 1913 over that paid for 1912, and that on the whole expenses seem to have decreased.

The war has made it still harder to know what if any economies have been effected by the co-ordination of interests. The reason of this lies in the terms of the arrangement made by the Government with the railways. When the State took over control, the elaborate machinery of the Clearing House was at once abolished. This machinery was that by which the receipts and expenses for through traffic over different railways were allocated to the different companies concerned, the clerical expenses of the Clearing House being paid by the different companies in proportion to their receipts therefrom. At the same time, the Government ceased to pay in cash for any of the services it received from the railways. The interests of the shareholders of the different companies was met by the Government in the following way:

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE

The Government has agreed to guarantee, and has in fact paid, to the different companies a sum sufficient to make their net revenue for the second half of 1914 equal to that for the second half of 1913, except that where net revenue for the first half of 1914 showed a reduction compared with that of the first half of 1913, the sum payable by the Government in respect to the second half of 1914 is reduced in proportion. In fact, net receipts were about the same in most cases for the first six months of 1914 and 1913, so that the net revenue for the whole year, including the Government payment, will have been about the same as that for 1913. The dividends are now being declared, and so far they have been the same as for 1914, or very little less. A similar arrangement is in force now in 1915, and will presumably continue.

The question that naturally arises is, What has been the effect of Government control on the earnings of the railways and on the services given to the public? Concerning the former question little can be said. The railways have been especially relieved from the obligation to publish full accounts, which, in view of the arrangement with the Government stated above, would be farcical. They have for the same reason ceased to publish the

usual weekly returns of approximate gross earnings which formed some guide to the Stock Exchange of the intrinsic merits of their different stocks. In regard to the services to the public, reliable information is scarce. Freight cars have been rushed from the military bases to the ports, and the process of bringing them back empty has not been too well handled. This, however, may be due to dislocation of the ordinary trade channels, not to mismanagement.

Passenger services, except with the Continent, have been maintained fully at the ordinary Winter standard, restaurant and sleeping cars running as usual, as well as excursion trains. The only exceptions have been the services to Ireland, which have been reduced owing to the absence of suitable steamships, many of the usual vessels having been taken over as hospital ships or transports. Also certain suburban and underground services have been reduced in London, owing to the earlier hours kept by the inhabitants. On the other hand, some special holiday facilities, which usually end in September, were kept on till November because so many folk had postponed their holidays at the outbreak of war. It is anticipated that this Summer the services will be extended as usual.

AS A WAR ENGINE

Efficiency of running trains has on the whole not been so good as in peace time, but it does not appear that this is due to State control. Occasionally, when another 40,000 troops or so, with big guns, ammunition, and impedimenta, go to France, or India, or Egypt, the ordinary traffic on certain sections may be held up. The actual embarkation of troops at Southampton and other ports has been performed with great efficiency. The trains usually come alongside the steamer, discharge their contents, and make room for a successor, in about twelve minutes. This is one of the few departments where the British have little to learn from other peoples; the process is so familiar, owing to the frequent movements of troops overseas in peace time, and the men in charge have three years' experience of the South African war to help them, so that muddle is rare. The melancholy reverse process of bringing back the special hospital trains of wounded is equally well done. There have, however, been rather more accidents than was to be expected since the war began. The cause of this seems to be shortage of labor. There are 600,000 railway men approximately in this country, of whom 70,000 are now with the colors. Enlistment from among them is now being discouraged, but even the places of the 70,000 have proved hard to fill. Thus boys and other untrained persons have often to be employed, with the results that inevitably follow the use of inefficient labor.

A LABOR PROBLEM

Replacement of freight and passenger cars does not appear to be going on as rapidly as usual. Shortage of labor is here the cause again, not economy, for from the shareholder's point of view economy in repairs paid for out of revenue is no advantage, because the Government makes up the difference in net receipts, as already described. Moreover, some of the railway manufacturing centres (which are controlled by the railways themselves to a very large extent) have been transformed into armament works.

Summing up the whole position of British railways under State control, it may be said that the present circumstances are so exceptional that it would be premature to judge the effect of the control. On

the other hand, it is clear that many of the objections previously urged against single control of the different British railways have proved baseless. The State has also obtained a knowledge of railway working such as it did not possess before, and on the other side the railways have gained a sense of solidarity among themselves which was previously lost in smaller jealousies.

Thus, if the war does not destroy the somewhat Socialistic tendency which marked British liberalism before the outbreak, we may expect that a movement for the nationalization of British railways will once more become prominent, and that its supporters will have a better basis on which to bargain with railway proprietors than they ever possessed before.

Vexatious Short Hauls

In Its Latest Decision Under a Much-Controversial Clause of the Commerce Act the Commission Has Sought to Reconcile Its Rulings With Necessities of Competition Without Hardship for the Railways

ANOTHER chapter was written last week in the history of the struggle of transcontinental railroads to meet water competition to Pacific Coast points through lowered rates, without effecting corresponding reductions to intermediate points in the Far West.

In a decision handed down last week on an application for relief from the Fourth Section of the Act to Regulate Commerce the Interstate Commerce Commission revised its zone system for fixing intermountain rates to permit of reductions in commodity rates to the Pacific Coast which are designed to enable the railroads to hold their ground against the tremendous advantage given the water routes by the opening of the Panama Canal.

The Fourth Section, which is better known as the long and short haul clause, has been the cause of disputes between the carriers and the cities in intermountain territory ever since its adoption as a part of the Interstate Commerce act, nearly thirty years ago. It was incorporated into the law to correct practice which had been in force since 1877, and was intended to prohibit a railroad from charging more for a short haul than for a longer distance embracing the short haul.

In 1877 the Union Pacific and Central Pacific, at that time independent lines, working together to defeat the attempt of steamship companies to get business from the East to Pacific Coast ports, adopted a special contract system under which they published two rate schedules, a white list and a pink list. The white list contained the open rate; the pink list the special rate which was given to shippers who would agree to send all of their freight by these lines to the exclusion of the water lines.

RAIL VS. OCEAN

In the cutthroat competition which followed the railroads practically succeeded in driving the ocean carriers out of business. The railroads had this advantage, that for every dollar they lost on business to the coast they could add a dollar to the charge for traffic to intermediate points. So obvious was the purpose of this arrangement that on class rates, affecting articles which would not move by vessels, the charges to Pacific Coast points increased with the distance, and were higher from the Atlantic seaboard than from interior points, but the commodity rates, made to drive out the clipper ships, were less to the coast than to the nearer points. In consequence, by 1885, the competition by sea was only nominal.

When the Fourth Section was strengthened by an amendment, in 1910, the power was left with the commission to make exceptions, while putting the burden of proof as to the fairness of such exceptions upon the carriers applying for them.

In 1911 the agitation of cities in intermountain territory, Spokane, Wash., Reno, Nev., and others, led to an application by the carriers for authority to continue the then current practice of making commodity rates to the Pacific Coast lower than to intermediate points.

THE ZONE PLAN

The commission recognized the justice of the theory under which rates had been made lower to the coast, but held that discrimination had been worked against intermountain cities in the arbitrary differences collected. To overcome the disadvantage under which intermountain points labored the commission sought to standardize concessions by laying out a zone system. Accordingly, five zones were marked out, and the carriers were ordered to scale their difference against the intermediate points according to distance.

What is the situation that led the carriers, supported, oddly enough it might seem, by shipping interests in Chicago, Duluth, St. Paul, St. Louis, and Missouri River cities, to ask for a readjustment of the zone differentials which would afford a larger measure of relief from the Fourth Section

order by permitting higher charges on many commodities to the intermountain points?

The railroads argue that commodities originate in large volume on the Atlantic seaboard; that they are adapted to water transportation, and in fact move in considerable quantities from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific Coast by water; that the rates made by water carriers on these commodities are extremely low and necessitate correspondingly low rates by the rail carriers from eastern seaboard territory, that the low rates so imposed from the eastern seaboard to the Pacific Coast necessitate correspondingly low rates from the Buffalo, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, and Missouri River territories, in order to permit the rail movement of traffic from these points to the Pacific Coast in competition with the same commodities moving from the Atlantic seaboard, and that since the opening of the canal the water carriers have materially reduced their rates, shortened the time for transportation, increased the frequency of their sailings, and materially added both to their tonnage capacity and to the actual tonnage obtained.

EXTENT OF WATER COMPETITION

There are in service between the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts 49 ships, with a capacity of 380,000 tons. The total tonnage moving by water from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast and the Hawaiian Islands in 1911 was 398,000 tons; in 1912, 452,000 tons; in 1913, 434,000 tons, and in September, 1914, the first full month after the opening of the canal, 78,000 tons, at the rate of 936,000 tons per annum. Since the opening of the canal there have moved by water commodities hitherto going almost exclusively by rail, as, for instance, 32 cars of cast-iron pipe from Birmingham, a shipment of paper bags from Sandy Hill, N. Y., catsup from Rochester, 140 cars of structural iron originating in various parts of Pennsylvania; 50 cars of wire from Pennsylvania, 1,200 tons of rails from Lorain, Ohio; 650 pieces of wrought-iron pipe from Wheeling, W. Va.; 10,000 or more tons of wrought-iron pipe from Youngstown, Ohio. Canal competition is a very real fact.

The commission holds that the carriers should be allowed to compete for this long-distance traffic so long as it may be secured at rates which cover the out-of-pocket cost. The new rates are designed to do that, which means that business secured under them will help "carry the overhead."

PRESENT RULINGS

To enable the carriers to make a fight for this business, by lowering rates to the Pacific Coast without correspondingly lowering rates in intermediate points, the commission modifies its original intermountain order as follows:

1. Carriers allowed to establish certain carload commodity rates from Missouri River territory to coast terminals lower than to intermediate points, provided rates to intermediate points do not exceed 75 cents per 100 pounds.

2. Carriers allowed to establish certain carload commodity rates from Zones 2, 3, and 4, to Pacific Coast, lower than to intermediate points, provided rates from Missouri River territory to intermediate points are not exceeded by more than 15, 25, and 35 cents per 100 pounds from Zone 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

3. Carriers allowed to establish certain L. C. L. commodity rates from Missouri River territory to Pacific Coast terminals lower than to intermediate points, provided rates on like traffic to intermediate points do not exceed \$1.50 per 100 pounds for first and second class freight and \$1.25 on third class or lower.

4. Carriers allowed to establish certain L. C. L. commodity rates from Zone 2, 3, and 4 to Pacific Coast lower than to intermediate points, provided rates to intermediate points do not exceed rates applicable from Missouri River territory to same points by more than 25, 40, and 55 cents per 100 pounds from Zones 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

Our Trade With the World

War Has Played Many Tricks With Our Commerce, Which Has Expanded Abnormally Here and Diminished Greatly There—The Composition of Exports Rather Than Their Volume Has Been Changed, While Imports Have Been Small

AS the largest country in the world at peace, the United States has been looked to by all of the belligerent nations as the source from which must come a large part of the supplies hitherto furnished by other countries, or produced by a population now under arms.

Officially a disinterested bystander, the United States has delivered to Europe foodstuffs and munitions of war which may have already served to prolong the conflict. Yet it is to be observed that as a vendor of actual implements of war, as distinguished from the necessities of life for those at home as well as for the men in the field, this country has so far played a relatively unimportant part in the Old World drama.

If the hundreds of resolutions and petitions pouring in upon Congress for the imposition of an embargo on the shipment of arms should result in putting a ban upon such exports, the prohibition would not interfere seriously with our war trade.

The war has played strange tricks with business. With exports going out in an ever-increasing volume and a steadily rising favorable trade balance, which is one of the usual indices of prosperity, the United States Government has been sorely pinched by such a loss in its income that even an extraordinary war tax of \$100,000,000 per annum has not been sufficient to offset its losses. Farmers and cattle raisers who had stocks on hand, and manufacturers who happened to be in a business of supplying articles required for the maintenance of armies, have never known such prosperous times, when buyers were more concerned over the time of deliveries than with the quotations made them.

INEQUALITIES

On the other hand, many manufacturers who had every reason to look for good business before the war broke out have found their foreign markets practically ruined, because their plants do not turn out articles for which Europe at war is crying. An unusual situation has developed where half of the members of any typical commercial organization are feeling prosperity and the other half hard times.

To date, the foreign trade of the United States has not increased so much in volume as it has changed in composition. The December trade balance was in this country's favor by over \$131,000,000, an increase of approximately \$80,000,000 over December, 1913, but of that amount \$70,000,000 was produced by a falling off in imports, and only \$10,000,000 by an increase in exports. The domestic exports rose from \$230,000,000 to \$240,000,000, while the imports fell from \$184,000,000 to \$114,000,000.

To the extent that the loss in imports fell upon articles which can now be produced in this country as cheaply the United States is or will be in the long run a gainer, although the customs revenues ordinarily received from this source have had in part to be supplanted by equivalent taxes levied in another and more direct manner. Another complication is introduced in the fact that the extraordinary shipments of foodstuffs and other necessities have already resulted in a rise in the price to consumers at home, so that in millions of individual cases the man whose wages have suffered by the shift in trade has to pay higher prices for his bread, his sugar, his meat, and his shoes.

RISING TRADE BALANCE

Up to the outbreak of war the United States had for the year a small trade balance in its favor. At the end of July the excess of exports over imports for the seven months was \$60,288,000. In the following five months the trade balance grew as follows:

	Excess of Exports
August	\$19,398,776
September	16,247,722
October	57,324,110
November	79,411,271
December	130,976,013
Five months	\$264,560,340
Twelve months	\$24,948,340

*Excess of imports.

The war came on with such suddenness that all of the nations concerned were caught unawares, and the effect of war orders did not become noticeable until the second month, or September. In fact, most of the articles which have since been most largely in demand for war pur-

poses showed a decrease in August as compared with August of 1913. The rapid increase in the value of some of the products desired as a result of the war is shown here:

	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Horses	\$227,820	\$250,745	\$321,400	\$170,620	\$300,050
1913...	10,706	100,267	1,918,423	5,624,350	7,390,845
Mules					
1913...	53,396	45,788	82,808	29,915	72,566
1914...	14,295	21,050	26,000	129,537	1,116,911
Wheat					
1913...	123,177,561	11,198,669	6,739,223	3,480,319	5,312,064
1914...	23,391,172	29,255,386	22,086,657	22,829,007	36,226,471
All breadstuffs					
1913...	29,612,959	8,538,110	14,141,273	10,616,470	11,786,946
1914...	30,421,045	40,436,965	39,182,055	41,047,630	57,297,424
Corn					
1913...	109,467	91,054	129,506	165,501	100,363
1914...	124,016	124,285	2,286,964	2,244,518	3,387,753

Until war created a sudden and almost insatiable demand for motor trucks, the United States figured in this business only to a very small extent, an average month's exports being \$100,000. On the other hand, the low-priced American pleasure car has found a ready market abroad in time of peace. The war has shifted the sale of American cars in Europe from the makers of pleasure machines to the manufacturers of trucks.

SOME WAR MUNITIONS

Shipments of explosives have been much smaller than were to have been expected. The value of cartridges exported in December went from \$612,000 to \$1,098,000, but the value of all explosives, including cartridges, was only \$2,170,000, against normal exports of \$885,000. Fire-arms to the value of \$1,093,000 were shipped, against \$416,000 a year ago.

A study of the figures showing the exports for December last and for December, 1913, shows how engrossed Europe's importers are in the business of war, to the exclusion of the ordinary pursuits of peace. Thus, articles needed for the outfitting and maintenance of men and horses have

been in great demand, while manufactures for which the United States has been called upon in past years, as, for instance, typewriters, sewing machines, and agricultural implements, have almost ceased to go.

Exports of some of the things most wanted for war show very large increases. Here are some items for December taken at random among those showing increases over the preceding year:

	—December—	1914.	1913.
Barley		\$1,401,000.	\$257,000
Corn		3,671,000	581,000
Oats		2,835,000	18,000
Rye		3,597,000	10,000
Wheat		36,236,000	5,342,000
Wheat flour		9,546,000	4,940,000
Eggs		958,000	286,000
Canned beef		655,000	41,000
Fresh beef		801,000	68,000
Canned and dried vegetables		1,651,000	391,000
Wearing apparel		2,751,000	808,000
Metal-working machinery		2,452,000	1,250,000
Sole leather		3,668,000	352,000
Shoe uppers		3,126,000	1,750,000
All leather and tanned skins		7,502,000	2,613,000
Harness and saddles		1,521,000	43,000
Wool manufactures		4,170,000	305,000

EXPORTS SHOWING DECREASES

Many other items of exports show large decreases. Here are some of them:

	—December—	1914.	1913.
Mowers and reapers		\$128,000	52,352,000
Plows and cultivators		120,000	880,000
Thrashers		20,000	285,000
Wagons		33,000	137,000
Copper		6,960,000	12,451,000
Cotton		40,350,000	81,505,000
Electrical machinery		1,620,000	2,253,000
Plow tyne		195,000	717,000
Pins and for skins		557,000	2,328,000
Cash registers		87,000	320,000
Sewing machines		370,000	1,202,000
Typewriters		367,000	1,023,000
Steel rails		97,000	706,000
Other track materials		74,000	300,000
Sheets and plates		718,000	1,279,000
Structural iron and steel		392,000	1,216,000
Ni rods and steel manufactures		14,940,600	22,115,000
Knife stocks		564,800	1,610,000
Fluorite oil		4,146,000	7,624,000
Volacite leaf		2,001,000	4,833,000
Wood, and manufactures of		2,966,000	7,581,000

A few materials used extensively in war are among those showing decreases, copper being the most conspicuous. That is largely because it has been difficult, if not impossible, to ship some of these things, notably copper, to Germany. The figures show literally that Europe has dropped the plow to take up the sword.

War-Protection for Debtors

Many Countries Are Gradually Freeing Their Markets of the Restrictions of Moratoria, but England Alone of the Countries Which Adopted That Expedient Has Gotten Rid of It Entirely

ON Dec. 21 THE ANNALIST gave details of the moratoria existing in various parts of the world from the information then available. Since then a number of changes have been reported, although it remains true that news of action on these matters is often many weeks late in reaching either New York or London.

England remains the only country that has abolished a moratorium once established, although Argentina, where the moratorium was chiefly for the benefit of the banks, seems to be gradually returning to normal conditions. In other South American countries, however, there seems to be less hope of an early termination of the moratoria in Europe.

GERMAN MEASURES

Less information has been available heretofore regarding the decrees of Germany and her allies than with respect to her enemies, with which communication has generally been well maintained. The situation in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey is now better understood than it was sixty days ago.

Germany has had no formal domestic moratorium, although the courts have been empowered to deal leniently with debtors, but the Federal Council declared a moratorium affecting foreign bills of exchange as early as Aug. 10. It was to run three months and was extended for another three months. Berlin banks, however, are said to be paying such acceptances, on the expiration of the first period, as have meanwhile been covered by the drawers.

Austria-Hungary has added to the existing moratorium a decree regarding retaliatory measures concerning balances and credits due to subjects of enemy States, which may be summarized as follows:

The settlement of claims which are due to sub-

jects of enemy States by way of balances and credits against companies, individuals, public administrative bodies, and other corporations in Austria-Hungary can either be prohibited or made dependent upon the fulfillment of certain conditions.

It may further be ordered that the debts in question be deposited until further notice in the Austro-Hungarian Bank or in some other suitable institution. A further decree prohibits the making of documents to all British and French subjects or to persons domiciled in the United Kingdom and France and their possessions, either directly or indirectly, in cash or by bill or check, or in any other way; the sending of money or securities to any of the countries mentioned is also prohibited. The period of payment for bills of exchange and checks to which this prohibition applies is postponed until further notice, and interest for postponement cannot be demanded on prohibited payments so long as the prohibition is in force. The debtor can discharge his debt by depositing the amount of the debt or securities with the Austro-Hungarian Bank or with the Post Office Bank. These regulations do not apply to British and French subjects domiciled in Austria-Hungary, nor to the intended settlement in that country of claims which have accrued to British and French subjects in the conduct of their business in their establishments in Austria.

TURKISH PROVISIONS

Turkey prolonged her moratorium to Jan. 3, and it is probable that a further extension has been made, but none has yet been reported. Previous decrees provided for the payment of 5 per cent. of liabilities as they became due, and the last decree reported ordered another 10 per cent. to be paid by Nov. 14 and further payments of 5 per cent. on debts falling due. Final liquidation, it was ordered, must take place by Jan. 3. Facility was granted for withdrawing deposits up to ten Turkish pounds after Oct. 4 and a similar amount after Nov. 14.

Of the Allies, England has long since abol-

ished her moratorium, and Belgium is under German control.

France has made steady progress in permitting the withdrawal of deposits from the banks. The banks, in fact, have gone beyond their legal obligations and are paying out deposits with considerable freedom, largely because it is not profitable to hold back deposits and pay the high rate of interest now provided. The general moratorium, however, has been extended to March 1, before which time the payment of bills issued before Aug. 4 cannot be claimed. A further prolongation of sixty days has been granted to all insurance capitalization and savings bank contracts falling due before March 1 and made prior to Aug. 4. Should the premiums due, however, have been paid or be paid before Jan. 31, it was provided, insurance companies, if called upon, must pay to the insured a certain percentage of the amount stipulated in the policy. A decree of Dec. 19 prolonged the moratorium sixty days for commercial transactions and three months for rents. The greatest amount that has been made demandable from the banks is 1,000 francs and 50 per cent. of the balance.

Russia's original moratorium applying to debts arising out of bills of exchange has been extended to debts arising out of contracts in general, and the recovery of debts secured by mortgages due before Jan. 30 has been deferred a year. Recovery of all debts due under contract incurred prior to July 30 and falling due between Nov. 30 and Jan. 30 has been suspended for two months from the date of maturity. Another ukase prohibits the remittance of money or valuables to enemy subjects residing outside the Russian Empire and limits the amount of money or valuables that any person may take out of Russia. With respect to sums due to enemy subjects residing outside Russia, but owning commercial or industrial enterprises within the empire, it provides that they may be paid in Russia to the manager of the enterprise who was legally authorized to receive such payment before the war.

IN NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

Several changes have also been made recently in respect to the moratoria of neutral European countries and their colonies.

Algeria and Tunis have extended the moratorium of Aug. 29 to apply to the repayment of debentures and to the payments of coupons, dividends, and interest which may fall due before April 1. In Tunis the delays granted by the decree of Dec. 15 have been limited by a decree of Dec. 29 to thirty days, and made to apply only to negotiable securities indorsed before Aug. 4 and due for payment before Feb. 1.

Denmark extended her moratorium to Jan. 1, but the banks were making no use of the extension where foreign drawers had remitted cover.

Italy extended her moratorium under special conditions to cover January, February, and March, and provided for the organization of an institute, with a capital of \$5,000,000, from which industrial loans might be obtained. There is no present intention of again extending the moratorium, as the King has published a decree ending it definitely on April 1.

Java has made the notes of the Java Bank legal tender and has reduced the reserve of bullion required against them to 20 per cent. She has also prohibited the export of gold and silver.

Rumania has had under consideration a bill for a four months' moratorium applying to commercial and private engagements abroad, whether payable in Rumania or elsewhere. Whether or not it was adopted has not been reported.

Sweden has extended to March 1 the moratorium as to creditors domiciled abroad. It does not, however, apply to debts due from the United States, the Netherlands, Spain, or Norway.

Moratoria persist in most of the South American countries, although not without modifications.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina allowed her formal moratorium to expire, but before doing so provided that it should continue till the Conversion Office should resume the exchange of gold for paper and suspended its obligation to do so. The moratorium applied chiefly to the withholding of deposits by banks, and it is said to have largely worked itself off, as in France.

Bolivia extended her moratorium for ninety days from Jan. 1.

Brazil extended her moratorium for another three months from Dec. 14. The extension is applicable only to debts subject to the previous moratoria that are liquidated to the extent of 25 per cent. at thirty days from their due date, 35 per cent. at a further thirty days, and 40 per cent. at a third thirty days. In case of delay in any of these payments the debt may be exacted at once.

With regard to debts in respect to foreign drafts, exchange contracts, and, in general, debts payable in gold and subject to previous moratoria, the ninety days' prorogation is conceded without the obligatory amortization. Withdrawals of deposits may be increased to 75 per cent. Loans to banks against deposits of securities, if liquidated by Aug. 31, 1915, will bear interest at 6 per cent. and after that at 1 per cent. extra for each month. The opinion prevails that the requirement of three amortizations and final settlement within ninety days is impossible of satisfaction and that a longer extension may be necessary.

Chile has extended for another thirty days the moratorium in respect to obligations contracted in gold before Aug. 1 which may have become due by Nov. 1.

Ecuador has extended the suspension of gold payments for banknotes until "banking and commercial operations can be normally restored."

Paraguay, which originally decreed a moratorium of four months in respect of obligations to pay in gold or foreign money, extended it to Aug. 31, 1915, for obligations without date of payment or falling due before Aug. 14, 1914, and until 290 days after their maturity for obligations falling due between Aug. 14, 1914, and May 31, 1915. Exceptions are made of obligations con-

tracted after the promulgation of the law, obligations arising from bank deposits made after Aug. 14, 1914, obligations arising from non-interest-bearing deposits, earned interest from July 1, 1914, and wages and salaries. The moratorium does not affect the right to present bills of exchange or their acceptance, nor the formality of legal procedure established to preserve the validity of the document. A creditor may demand payment of an obligation in gold or foreign money, the same as though the moratorium did not exist, by converting his claim into legal paper money at the official rate fixed for the collection of fiscal dues. It is intimated that domestic reasons, rather than the European war, are chiefly accountable for Paraguay's moratorium.

Peru has extended her moratorium with some modifications. The banks are undertaking no new operations, but concede renewals to their clients easily, with small amortizations, and interest is maintained at 8 per cent. The markets are not expected to recover their normal condition for a long time, in view of intimate relations with the belligerent nations, from which no support is obtainable.

From other countries no reports have come of any expirations or material modifications in the moratoria previously existing.

The Uses of Overdrafts

To a Large Extent They Represent What Are, in Effect, Merely Temporary Loans—Seasonal Fluctuations Which Tend to Show That They Are Mostly Legitimate

THE recent announcement of Controller Williams to the effect that he intended to put an end to overdrafts under any circumstances was amplified last week by a further statement in which the Controller declared that if his office could legally find a way to prevent the abuse of overdrafts without working hardship to those who may unintentionally overdraw their accounts, or those against whose overdrafts the banks are amply secured, he would modify the "order" as originally put out so as to accomplish this result.

Disregarding the fact that the Controller probably could not legally enforce such an order, it is by no means certain that such action would materially reduce the aggregate overdrafts of all the national banks in the United States. These are, on the average, about \$27,000,000, and such statistical evidence as is available tends to support the contention that for the most part such overdrafts represent entirely legitimate transactions.

OVERDRAFTS AS LOANS

For example, a buyer in the Southwest who goes out to purchase cattle does not know in advance just how much he is apt to spend. That being the case, it would be a handicap to have to arrange a loan in advance—he might be compelled to forego advantageous purchases through lack of sufficient funds, or he might, before starting, borrow much more than he could expend to advantage. So instead of making him a permanent loan, the bank agrees to honor his checks up to a stipulated amount, and the overdraft thus created is considered by both parties to be in the nature of a temporary loan. When his purchases are completed the overdraft, or temporary loan, is converted into a permanent loan, thus wiping out the overdraft.

This and similar practices probably account for the fact that overdrafts in Texas, which has only a fraction of the banking power of New York, are, as a rule, five or six times as great. Similarly, in the Northwest and elsewhere, railroad contractors make overdrafts to take care of their pay-

rolls. The size of the payrolls on much of such work depends on the amount accomplished during the month, and when the contractor goes out to pay off on the 1st of the month he cannot always tell in advance how much he will need. Besides, as a rule, he receives his pay from the railroad on the 10th. In the meantime, the bank accommodates him by honoring his pay checks, the overdraft being made good when the railroad's check arrives.

SEASONAL MOVEMENT

If a large portion of overdrafts were other than legitimate, it would be natural to suppose that the amount would be fairly constant—there being no closed season for the "intentional" overdrawer. Here, again, the statistics support the other contention. In the accompanying table are shown the amounts of overdrafts at the time of each of the Controller's calls on national banks since 1898, overdrafts not being included in such reports prior to that time. A study of these figures shows a decided seasonal influence. With few exceptions the last call of the year, which usually comes at the peak of the crop-moving season, is the one which discloses the maximum of overdrafts. This condition usually obtains for some time, as the amount reported on the first call in each year, especially when it comes shortly after the first, is also large. On the second and third calls a decided decrease is usually shown; on the fourth, the increase, generally culminating in the fifth or last call of the year, commences to appear.

IN YEARS OF EXPANSION

Another thing disclosed by the figures is that the amount of overdrafts is usually greater in years of business expansion than in other years. Probably that accounts for the fact that on Dec. 31 last overdrafts were the smallest ever reported with the exception of the third call in 1899. The expansion of loans under the new banking system may also have been an important factor in effecting this reduction. The effects of the efforts of Controllers in recent years toward eliminating overdrafts are also seen.

Overdrafts of the

	First Call.	Second Call.	Third Call.	Fourth Call.	Fifth Call.
1914*	\$21,838,399	\$21,335,628	\$15,485,641	\$17,142,637	\$18,797,351
1913	22,307,066	20,077,156	19,006,152	18,377,993	27,460,769
1912	23,982,519	19,819,115	19,849,391	20,168,074	26,493,061
1911	40,507,042	30,051,957	23,397,257	27,150,832	35,950,532
1910	34,027,807	31,914,337	25,743,314	29,541,681	47,066,980
1909	29,077,141	24,584,055	25,315,120	29,552,241	41,907,504
1908	29,625,689	23,335,809	24,705,023	30,908,965	38,910,826
1907	41,916,260	36,762,892	32,870,471	30,443,119	37,554,694
1906	47,256,537	34,803,691	30,034,557	32,475,195	53,735,049
1905	43,749,807	36,375,221	30,367,466	29,905,633	54,473,855
1904	42,401,729	30,726,878	26,800,926	31,777,951	54,941,935
1903	35,721,746	29,920,759	27,258,743	27,191,997	51,399,000
1902	32,314,886	27,211,618	24,657,222	34,111,552	43,552,543
1901	36,693,829	28,036,550	24,147,213	33,086,161	43,356,248
1900	23,503,096	19,064,580	20,724,992	23,130,598	41,682,539
1899	18,542,345	17,945,729	15,724,395	19,231,907	33,681,370
1898†	.....	.....	.....	.....	22,674,456

†Overdrafts not reported prior to last call of 1898. *Six calls in 1914. On Dec. 31 overdrafts were \$15,798,224.

Foreign Correspondence

LONDON is still taking calmly the German threat of a blockade of all Great Britain and food prices have not risen in response to this move on Germany's part. There is demand for high-grade investment issues in the English market, but the stock market is held in check by the expectation of an early announcement of revised minimum prices. Some of the gold earmarked for the Bank of England in South Africa has been brought to London. Russia has placed \$50,000,000 of one-year Treasury bills in London at 5 per cent. discount. The Paris Bourse is stagnant. Rentes have been declining.

NO TRIPLE LOAN

London Market Helped by Disavowals of Report That the Allies Would Issue Bonds Jointly

By Cable to The Annalist

LONDON, Feb. 13.

STOCKS were steady this week, helped by knowledge that there would be no giant three-power loan. Russia is putting out here today £10,000,000 of one-year notes at 5 per cent. discount. The British Treasury will repay £15,000,000 of its bills on Feb. 22.

There is demand for high-class bonds and Colonial issues, but business is restricted owing to continued uncertainty over the talked-of revision of minimum prices. The supporters of a revision seem to have won their point and an early announcement of new prices is expected.

The market in American shares here is still very dull. There is small buying of Atchison shares and no signs of much selling pressure anywhere. Prices are being adjusted daily to the overnight level reported from New York. The weakness of sterling exchange rates makes the money market cautious about buying bills at present low rates. Several million pounds sterling of gold earmarked for the Bank of England in South Africa has arrived here. The proportion of the special gold reserve to the currency note issue has been increased to 68 per cent.

Over half of the £80,000,000 lent to the Stock Exchange at the end of July has now been repaid. A typical case of the liquidation of pre-war accounts is found in Shell Oil, which was a speculative favorite. A bull account in that stock estimated at £600,000 has been so far liquidated that the price has risen well above the end of July level.

Dealings occurred here this week in German 3 per cent. Government bonds for the first time since the outbreak of the war. They sold at 54, compared with 73, the last price recorded here before the war.

The January foreign trade returns showed imports less than 1 per cent. under those for January a year ago, but exports decreased 40 per cent. England as a creditor nation is now drawing goods and not gold. A suggestion that the Reichsbank has been increasing its stock of gold out of the supply held by the Bank of Austria, which apparently has issued no statements since the outbreak of war, is attracting attention here.

The City is still taking the blockade threat calmly. If, as some presume, Germany's purpose in that threat was to cause a further rise in food prices, her object has not been attained.

It is expected that £200,000 of bonds issued by an Argentine railroad will be taken here shortly.



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AN IDLE BOURSE

Few Sales Recorded, Security Holders Preferring to Borrow Rather Than Liquidate at Present Depressed Prices

By Cable to The Annalist

PARIS, Feb. 13.

THE Bourse is stagnant. There have been few transactions this week. Needy holders prefer to pledge first rate securities rather than sell them out at present very low prices. This partly explains the increase of 136,000,000 francs in advances on securities reported by the Bank of France in its weekly statement.

French 3 per cents have been the weakest feature, owing to sales in anticipation of the forthcoming Government bond issue, the first installment of which will be issued on Feb. 25, probably in the form of 10-year fives. Every fresh fall in rentes makes more difficult the resumption of the liquidation of Bourse accounts, inasmuch as the last settlement price for French 3 per cents was all of thirteen points above the present quotation.

Ottoman issues are very flat on account of the passing of the interest. Suez Canal shares are strong, owing to the abandonment of the Turkish invasion. Rio Tintos are being benefited by the strong position of the metal market.

Russian funds are steady as a result of the conference of Ministers of the allied powers. Trade conditions continue to improve. Rumor suggests that French financiers are endeavoring to negotiate the sale of an institution interested in American securities to a group of New York bankers.

DUTCH TRADE

How the Netherlands Government Provided Against the Seizure of Contraband Goods by Forming a Special Company

Special Correspondence of The Annalist

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 11.

THE news that your Government had taken exception to the action of the British Government in detaining ships sailing under neutral flags and seizing cargoes destined for neutral ports was received with sincere approval here. The Dutch Government had already made a similar protest against these measures, and with good reason. Imports from our colonies had decreased greatly, because the exporters were not inclined to run the risk of having their shipments seized. In view of the large markets here for the products of our colonies, our trade with them is a matter of vital importance to the whole nation.

For example, tobacco, tin, rubber, coffee, &c., are imported in large quantities from the Dutch East Indies, and the markets here for some of them are the most important of the world. The imports of Sumatra and Java tobacco alone in 1914 amounted to 837,829 bales, worth 80,000,000 florins, against 981,361 bales in 1913. The tobacco auctions are usually held in the Spring, but it is feared that shipping conditions will prevent the supply reaching here in time, which will be a great disadvantage to our market.

The market for tin has also suffered severely. Banka tin, of which large quantities are imported each year, is quoted at 120 florins, after having been as high as 140 florins, but until fresh imports arrive the quotations will be practically nominal.

The extent to which the rubber industry has suffered may be gathered from the fact that imports in 1914, up to the outbreak of war, were 834,165 kilos, and since then they have totaled only 418,924 kilos. Naturally, the price has soared. At one time it was as high as 7 florins per kilo,

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which compares with 2 florins per kilo for the best quality before the war.

Under these conditions, it was natural that our financial and business interests should co-operate with the Government in an effort to overcome the handicap under which industry was laboring. A company was formed with the name Nederlandsche Overseer Trust Maatschappij, (Dutch Transmarine Trust Company,) which, through our Government, opened negotiations with the belligerent countries. That these negotiations were successful is evidenced by the following, which has just been published:

The Governments of France, Great Britain, and Russia, having been informed of the establishment and purpose of the Nederlandsche Overseer Trust Maatschappij, have declared to the Dutch Government that contraband goods consigned to that company will not be seized. The said Governments have also given assurances to the Dutch Government that several kinds of foodstuffs, not coming directly under the classification of "strict necessities of life," if they are consigned to private persons, will be left untroubled, unless it is clear that such persons are intermediaries in transmitting the goods to the enemy.

This statement has greatly relieved the anxiety prevailing among business men here as to the situation of the markets depending upon imports from the Dutch East Indies.

European Bank Statements

Bank of England

Week Ended Feb. 11

	Change from	1914.
	Previous Week.	1914.
Circulation	£34,415,000	£411,000 £28,109,000
Public deposits ..	46,446,000	+7,835,000 12,446,000
Private deposits ..	115,830,000	-8,106,000 50,196,000
Govt. securities ..	24,758,000	+3,434,000 11,252,000
Other securities ..	194,615,000	-3,473,000 35,993,000
Reserve	51,230,000	-32,000 33,494,000
Prop. res. to liab. ..	31.57%	+ 0.04% 53.46%
Bullion	67,204,000	- 444,000 43,154,000
Bank rate	5%	..... 5%

Bank of Germany

Feb. 10. Feb. 2. Changes.

	Marks.	Marks.	Marks.
Total coin and bullion	2,351,613,000	2,384,584,000	- 52,971,000
Of which gold	2,156,963,000	2,125,650,000	+ 31,304,000
Bills discounted	3,337,904,000	3,262,188,000	+ 75,716,000
Loans	41,028,000	42,431,000	- 503,000
Securities	232,378,000	232,323,000	+ 55,000
Circulation	5,046,764,000	5,633,382,000	+ 13,382,000
Discount rate	5%	5%	.....

Bank of France

Feb. 4, 1915. Previous week. Last year.

	Francs.	Francs.	Francs.
Gold	4,231,000,000	4,255,700,000	3,548,800,000
Silver	366,900,000	365,800,000	630,400,000
Circulation	10,646,200,000	10,473,500,000	6,028,800,000
Deposits	2,298,000,000	2,378,200,000	712,300,000
Treasury dep. ..	63,300,000	70,500,000	145,500,000
Advances	890,400,000	724,800,000	757,700,000

Bank of Netherlands

Week Ended Jan. 23.

	1915.	1914.	1913.
	Dutch	Dutch	Dutch
	Guilder.	Guilder.	Guilder.
Gold	298,111,182	150,244,379	159,599,834
Silver	1,820,124	10,109,999	9,183,139
Bills discounted	147,283,115	81,605,704	96,590,572
Advances	131,306,958	77,782,435	70,579,645
Circulation	481,061,190	308,776,549	309,996,585
Deposits	36,200,804	3,657,249	4,418,077



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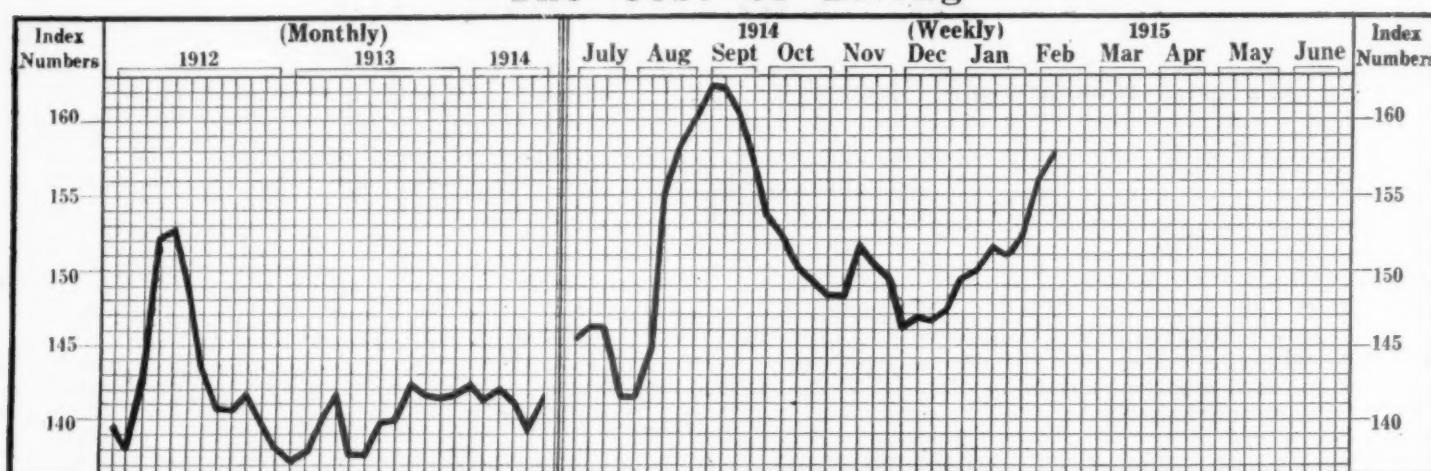
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The Cost of Living



An index number is a means of showing fluctuations in the average price of a group of commodities. The Annalist Index Number shows the fluctuations in the average wholesale price of twenty-five food commodities selected and arranged to represent a theoretical family's food budget.

Barometrics

THE ANNALIST INDEX NUMBER

Weekly Averages.	1914....	1914....	Years' Averages.
Feb. 13, 1915....	157.94	146.07	1896.... 80.09
Feb. 14, 1914....	140.52	139.98	1890.... 109.25

FINANCE

	Last Week.	Same Week	Year	Same Period
Sale of stocks, shares....	1,199,229	1,209,098	7,545,937	13,551,606
Av. price of 50 stocks....	High 62.78	High 71.98	High 64.68	High 73.39
Sales of bonds, par value....	Low 61.44	Low 70.74	Low 60.07	Low 67.50
Average net yield of ten savings bank bonds....	4.340%	4.195%	4.355%	4.2557%
New security issues....	\$28,200,000	\$33,154,000	\$199,899,590	\$262,626,600
Refunding....			40,045,000	57,018,000

POTENTIALS OF PRODUCTIVITY

The Metal Barometer

	—End of January.—	—End of December.—
Daily pig iron capacity, tons....	56,270	63,470
U. S. Steel orders, tons....	4,248,571	4,613,680
Pig iron production, tons....	*1,601,421	*1,885,054
*Month of January. †Calendar year.		

Building Permits

—January, 142 Cities.—	—December, 112 Cities.—	—November, 133 Cities.—
1915. 1914.	1914. 1913.	1914. 1913.
\$44,011,964	\$49,254,909	\$31,603,322
		\$54,743,855
		\$40,130,697
		\$46,519,729

Migration	—December.—	—Calendar Year.—
	1914.	1913.
Inbound (alien only)....	20,944	95,387
Outbound (alien only)....	23,821	30,243
Balance	—2,877	+65,144
	+344,860	+1,113,109

MEASURES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Bank Clearings

Entire country, estimated. Percentages show changes from preceding year.	The past week. P. C.	The week before. P. C.	Seven Weeks. P. C.
1915 \$2,562,512,153 —13.1	\$3,281,942,247 —13.2	\$21,124,339,353 —14.2	
1914 2,949,200,063 —8.5	3,780,733,225 + 5.3	24,629,151,405 —1.2	
1913 3,223,819,956 + 7.5	3,590,560,873 —11.5	24,938,644,803 + 6.9	

Gross Railroad Earnings

*First Week in February.	†Fourth Week in January.	‡Third Week in January.	§Month of December.	||July 1 to Dec. 31.
This year.... \$4,032,356	\$5,782,531	\$8,055,132	\$148,821,786	\$1,092,565,922
Same last yr. 4,232,974	6,483,172	8,855,471	163,156,509	1,152,268,819
Gain or loss. —\$200,618	—\$700,641	—\$800,339	—\$14,334,723	—\$59,702,897
—4.7%	—10.8%	—9.0%	—8.8%	—5.2%
*10 roads. †12 roads. ‡19 roads. §40 roads.				

OUR FOREIGN TRADE

December.	1914.	1913.	Calendar Year.
Exports	\$245,632,558	\$233,195,628	\$2,113,624,050
Imports	114,656,545	184,025,571	1,789,276,001
Excess of exports....	\$130,976,013	\$49,170,057	\$324,348,049

Exports and Imports at New York

Exports.	Imports.
1915. Week ended Feb. 6.... \$23,526,602	1914. \$24,926,782
From Jan. 1.... 131,249,806	1914. 104,310,947

WEEK'S PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES

Range since Current Price.	Mean High.	Mean Low.	Mean price of Jan. 1.	Price of Jan. 1, 1914.	Price of Jan. 1, 1913.
Copper: Lake, per pound....	\$0.14625	\$0.1475	\$0.13	\$0.13875	\$0.133125
Cotton: Spot, middling upland, per lb....	.0855	.0870	.0850	.0875	.0810
Hemlock: Base price per 1,000 feet....	24.50	24.50	24.50	24.50	23.75
Hides: Packer No. 1, Native, per lb....	.25	.25	.23	.2325	.2025
Petroleum: Crude, per bbl....	1.50	1.50	1.45	1.475	1.975
Pig Iron: Bessemer, at Pitts., per ton....	14.55	14.70	14.55	14.825	17.025
Rubber: Up-River, fine, per pound....	.58	.70	.575	.6675	.805
Silk: Raw, Italian, classical, per lb....	3.55	3.55	3.40	3.475	4.025
Steel billets at Pittsburgh, per ton....	10.00	20.00	18.50	19.25	20.00
Wool: Ohio X, per pound....	.27	.27	.26	.265	.26

THE CREDIT POSITION

New York Banking Position

(Both Banks and Trust Companies, Average Figures.)

	Loans.	Deposits.	Cash.	Cash Reserve.
Last week	\$2,284,804,000	\$2,258,337,000	\$368,688,000	16.32%
Week before	2,256,796,000	2,233,498,000	370,257,000	16.58%
This week, 1914.....	2,024,834,000	1,914,428,000	476,923,000	24.91%
This year's high.....	2,284,804,000	2,258,337,000	370,257,000	16.75%
on week ended.....	Feb. 13	Feb. 13	Feb. 6	Jan. 30
This year's low.....	2,182,875,000	2,091,985,000	330,900,000	15.75%
on week ended.....	Jan. 2	Jan. 2	Jan. 2	Jan. 9

Condition of Federal Reserve Banks

RESOURCES:	Weeks Ended			
	Feb. 12.	Feb. 5.	Jan. 15.	Dec. 11.
Gold	\$259,256,000	\$256,217,000	\$236,516,000	\$232,073,000
Other cash	22,117,000	22,641,000	16,228,000	28,170,000
Total	\$281,373,000	\$278,858,000	\$252,744,000	\$260,243,000
Discounts, 30 days	7,884,000	7,714,000	6,049,000	6,466,000
60 days	6,126,000	5,945,000	4,344,000	1,960,000
Other maturities	3,080,000	2,761,000	2,049,000	1,831,000
Total	\$17,090,000	\$16,420,000	\$12,442,000	\$10,257,000
Investments	15,546,000	14,704,000	9,173,000	.....
Due from F. R. banks	4,462,000	5,419,000	7,595,000	250,937,000
Other resources	6,551,000	6,823,000	15,144,000	1,976,000
Total resources	\$325,022,000	\$322,224,000	\$297,098,000	\$272,476,000

LIABILITIES:	Weeks Ended			
	Week.	High.	Low.	1914. 1913.
Capital paid in	\$35,841,000	\$35,123,000	\$18,075,000	\$18,047,000
Deposits	284,996,000	284,101,000	277,185,000	250,937,000
Notes in circulation (net)	4,185,000	3,000,000	1,838,000	3,492,000
Total liabilities	\$325,022,000	\$322,224,000	\$297,098,000	\$272,476,000
Gold reserve ..				

Banking and Securities

Bank Clearings

For the week ended Saturday noon. Reported by telegraph to The Annalist

Central	—Last Week.—	—Seven Weeks.—	Change.
Reserve cities:	1915.	1914.	
New York.....	\$1,391,816,454	\$1,637,269,443	\$11,502,083,214
Chicago.....	254,057,882	281,561,722	2,056,852,397
St. Louis.....	74,275,197	75,179,303	564,261,560
Total 3 c.r. cities	\$1,720,149,533	\$1,664,040,528	\$14,113,197,171
			\$17,024,195,547
Other Federal Reserve cities:			-17.1
Atlanta.....	\$13,946,451	\$17,000,000	\$100,593,584
Boston.....	136,621,441	146,717,195	1,013,040,472
Cleveland.....	23,455,774	23,942,744	172,754,012
Kan. City, Mo.,	71,825,400	52,181,455	528,579,162
Minneapolis.....	22,392,714	19,406,794	201,251,698
Philadelphia.....	120,041,246	130,882,296	1,044,745,638
Richmond.....	8,830,747	8,205,161	61,914,008
San Francisco.....	43,089,318	45,907,509	348,511,598
Total 8 cities.....	\$440,191,001	\$444,240,187	\$3,472,290,172
			\$3,582,250,884
Total 11 cities.....	\$2,160,340,044	\$2,438,280,715	\$17,585,487,313
			\$20,606,446,431
Other cities:			-14.7
Baltimore.....	\$44,747,740	\$31,134,282	\$261,107,707
Cincinnati.....	21,234,800	24,651,600	174,806,050
Denver.....	7,508,530	7,330,629	50,479,209
Detroit.....	18,973,785	23,095,007	151,935,616
Los Angeles.....	17,120,556	22,711,123	134,500,910
Louisville.....	14,225,014	16,645,374	96,012,208
New Orleans.....	19,200,983	18,773,991	141,711,416
Omaha.....	16,815,568	16,319,343	122,872,701
Pittsburgh.....	39,476,268	42,335,887	321,872,474
St. Paul.....	9,501,989	8,410,417	75,712,723
Seattle.....	10,628,540	10,886,145	77,363,002
Total 11 cities.....	\$219,523,783	\$222,593,558	\$1,617,404,136
			\$1,779,229,193
Total 22 cities.....	\$2,379,864,427	\$2,660,874,573	\$19,202,951,470
			\$22,385,675,624
			-14.2

Clearing House Institutions

Actual Conditions Saturday Morning, Feb. 13, with Change from the

Previous Week

	Banks	Trust Companies	All Members	Change.
Loans, &c.....	\$1,589,313,000	\$608,000,000	\$2,287,370,000	+\$24,710,600
Gold.....	164,075,000	48,440,000	212,515,000	-2,941,000
Legal tenders.....	65,323,000	2,615,000	67,938,000	+1,715,000
Silver.....	75,721,000	4,544,000	80,265,000	-76,000
*National bank notes.....	6,292,000	3,330,000	9,622,000	-700,000
Reserve with depositories.....	119,381,000	26,685,000	140,000,000	+1,376,000
Net demand deposits.....	1,031,265,000	523,596,000	2,166,861,000	+22,883,000
Net time deposits.....	10,825,000	82,297,000	93,122,000	+819,000

*Counted as reserve by State institutions, but not by national banks.

Daily Average Loans, Deposits, and Cash Compared

Taking the Clearing House banks alone, because the trust companies have no Clearing House record back of 1911, the items loans, deposits, and cash compare with corresponding weeks of other years thus:

Loans.	Deposits.	Cash.	Loans.	Deposits.	Cash.
*1915. \$1,586,827,000	\$1,639,911,000	\$310,885,000	1911. \$1,315,317,200	\$1,351,598,000	\$374,200,100
1914. 1,450,792,000	1,511,976,000	411,541,000	1910. 1,233,367,000	1,235,416,000	323,027,200
1913. 1,386,165,000	1,396,795,000	355,723,000	1909. 1,326,315,400	1,378,413,600	354,101,200
1912. 1,418,859,000	1,482,480,000	405,264,000	1908. 1,135,248,200	1,132,300,100	313,927,500

*Figures affected by change to new system. 1907. 1,092,061,000 1,057,546,000 288,817,000

Stock Market Averages

The average quotations of twenty-five leading railroad and twenty-five industrial issues and of the two groups of stocks combined last week:

RAILROADS

High.	Low.	Last.	Ch'ge.	High.	Low.	Last.	Ch'ge.
Feb. 8. 69.06	68.70	68.94	+.26	Feb. 11. 69.45	68.77	69.23	+.68
Feb. 9. 69.17	68.30	68.46	-.48	Feb. 12. Holiday.			
Feb. 10. 68.69	68.08	68.55	+.09	Feb. 13. 69.17	68.29	68.32	-.91

INDUSTRIALS

Feb. 8. 55.11	54.47	54.95	+.81	Feb. 11. 55.37	55.92	55.71
Feb. 9. 55.33	54.73	54.88	-.07	Feb. 12. Holiday.		
Feb. 10. 55.29	54.83	55.21	+.33	Feb. 13. 55.87	55.26	55.28

COMBINED AVERAGE

Feb. 8. 62.08	61.58	61.94	+.53	Feb. 11. 62.78	62.07	62.57	+.69
Feb. 9. 62.25	61.51	61.67	-.27	Feb. 12. Holiday.			
Feb. 10. 61.99	61.44	61.88	+.21	Feb. 13. 62.52	61.77	61.80	-.77

YEARLY HIGHS AND LOWS

Railroads.	Industrials.	Combined.	
High.	Low.	High.	Low.
1915*.....	72.35	Ja. 22 67.57	Ja. 7 57.14
1914.....	84.9	Jan. 66.35	July 61.7
1913.....	91.4	Jan. 75.3	June 67.1
1912.....	97.3	Oct. 88.4	Dec. 74.5
1911.....	99.6	Jan. 84.4	Sep. 60.7

*To date.

Record of Transactions

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Week Ended February 13

STOCKS (Shares.)

	1915.	1914.	1913.
Monday.....	212,490	280,921	183,621
Tuesday.....	245,647	312,175	369,208
Wednesday.....	253,880	221,279	.....
Thursday.....	349,285	.....	475,850
Friday.....	.....	257,736	310,635
Saturday.....	137,927	156,987	128,226
Total week.....	1,199,229	1,209,098	1,467,540
Year to date.....	7,545,937	13,551,606	11,675,635

BONDS (Par Value.)

	\$1,909,500	\$3,977,500	\$2,299,500
Monday.....	2,187,000	4,017,000	2,474,500
Wednesday.....	1,662,500	4,022,500	.....
Thursday.....	2,141,000	.....	2,827,500
Friday.....	.....	2,973,000	2,105,000
Saturday.....	1,831,000	1,362,000	954,000
Total week.....	\$9,731,000	\$16,352,000	\$10,660,500
Year to date.....	78,077,000	128,926,500	78,872,500

In detail last week's transactions compare as follows:

STOCKS	Feb. 13, '15.	Feb. 14, '14.	Change.
Railroad and miscellaneous.....			

New York Stock Exchange Transactions

Week Ended February 13

High and low prices for the year are based on 100-share lots, the official unit.

Range for Year 1914.—	Range for Year 1915.—		Stocks.	Amount Capital Stock Listed.	Last Dividend Paid Date.	Per Cent.	Per- Ind.	High.	Low.	Last.	Net Changes.	Sales
	High.	Low.										
108	91	82	Feb. 11	80	Jan. 22							
28%	19%	30%	Feb. 9	26%	Jan. 7							
14%	6	11	Jan. 19	7%	Jan. 12							
47	32%	47	Jan. 16	33	Feb. 10							
78%	48%	58%	Jan. 21	51%	Jan. 2							
59%	47%	52%	Jan. 19	48	Jan. 4							
97%	90%	91	Jan. 12	90%	Jan. 15							
33%	19	42	Feb. 11	33%	Jan. 6							
80	66	85	Feb. 2	83	Feb. 1							
146%	129%	137%	Jan. 22	134	Jan. 7							
35%	19%	31%	Jan. 19	25%	Jan. 4							
96	80	97%	Jan. 21	91%	Jan. 5							
53%	42%	48%	Jan. 18	44	Feb. 5							
118%	112	115	Jan. 20	113	Jan. 7							
68	59%	60	Jan. 12	59%	Jan. 5							
86%	83	82	Jan. 20	82	Jan. 20							
107	102%	*108%	Feb. 10	*105	Jan. 7							
46%	32	48%	Feb. 11	39	Jan. 4							
97%	93%	97%	Jan. 26	97%	Jan. 8							
110%	99%	95	Jan. 20	90	Jan. 30							
5%	3%	5%	Feb. 9	4%	Jan. 9							
25%	17	28%	Feb. 9	19%	Jan. 5							
32%	19%	25%	Jan. 18	20%	Jan. 4							
11%	7%	11%	Jan. 16	7%	Jan. 2							
31%	25	30%	Jan. 18	24	Jan. 5							
37%	20%	28%	Jan. 12	21%	Feb. 5							
102%	96	96%	Jan. 9	83	Feb. 8							
9%	4%	6	Jan. 22	4	Jan. 6							
50%	30	30%	Feb. 1	28%	Jan. 1							
71%	50%	67%	Feb. 13	56	Jan. 2							
105	97	103%	Jan. 22	100	Jan. 4							
85	78%	78%	Feb. 3	78	Jan. 19							
172	148	155	Jan. 29	144	Jan. 16							
106%	99%	106	Feb. 1	103	Jan. 19							
37%	27%	32	Jan. 18	26%	Jan. 7							
109%	97	111%	Jan. 29	100	Feb. 5							
115	107%	114%	Jan. 20	109	Feb. 5							
59	60	Jan. 15	58%	Jan. 9								
124%	114	121%	Jan. 20	116	Jan. 4							
256	215	234%	Jan. 29	220	Jan. 4							
109	101%	107%	Feb. 9	103%	Jan. 4							
20%	12	17%	Jan. 23	16	Jan. 5							
83	72%	79%	Jan. 15	78	Jan. 4							
17%	10	*5	Feb. 4	*5	Feb. 4							
38%	24%	28%	Jan. 21	25	Jan. 2							
29%	5	8	Jan. 21	5	Jan. 4							
100%	89%	96%	Jan. 26	93	Jan. 2							
101%	96%	99	Feb. 11	96	Jan. 5							
126	114	107	Jan. 22	99	Jan. 5							
52%	38%	40	Jan. 11	29%	Feb. 10							
110	102%	103%	Jan. 15	99	Feb. 8							
98%	67	74%	Jan. 26	67%	Jan. 9							
83%	69	73%	Jan. 20	69%	Jan. 4							
1%	1%	7%	Jan. 9	5%	Feb. 5							
46%	29%	57%	Feb. 10	46%	Jan. 2							
91%	68	105%	Feb. 11	91	Jan. 2							
94%	79	88%	Jan. 22	84%	Jan. 6							
130	118	129	Jan. 22	118	Jan. 5							
46%	39	*39	Jan. 19	*39	Jan. 19							
8%	5%	*5	Jan. 28	*5	Jan. 28							
29%	26	28%	Feb. 11	27	Feb. 4							
30%	15%	21%	Feb. 8	15	Jan. 12							
68	50	54%	Feb. 8	47	Jan. 14							
61%	60	*56%	Feb. 13	*56%	Feb. 13							
220%	153	168%	Jan. 21	153%	Feb. 5							
95%	80%	*80	Jan. 21	*80	Jan. 21							
38%	20%	33%	Jan. 8	33	Jan. 27							
104	94%	104	Jan. 27	100%	Jan. 7							
320	300	325	Jan. 22	324	Jan. 22							
106	105	*112	Jan. 20	*110	Jan. 6							
68	40	46%	Jan. 26	41	Jan. 4							
11%	9	9%	Jan. 27	9%	Jan. 27							
19	12	*11%	Jan. 25	*11%	Jan. 25							
15%	9%	12%	Jan. 22	10%	Jan. 4							
41%	25	32	Jan. 21	27	Jan. 11							
107%	84	93%	Jan. 22	85%	Feb. 9							
143	126	130	Jan. 22	124%	Jan. 14							
...	...	5-32	Jan. 16	7-6	Feb. 8							
136%	122	129%	Jan. 22	122%	Jan. 5							
180	170	*175	Jan. 30	*166	Feb. 10							
44	31%	37%	Jan. 22	32%	Jan. 6							
40	22	*21	Jan. 18	*21	Jan. 18							
70	40	56	Feb. 5	55	Feb. 8							
104%	90	101	Jan. 28	98	Jan. 20							
34%	27	21%	Jan. 21	21%	Jan. 5							
28%	20	26	Jan. 23	21%	Jan. 13							
62	37%	47	Jan. 29	45	Jan. 18							
55	37	37	Jan. 18	37	Jan. 18							
139%	112%	122%	Jan. 21	113%	Jan. 4							
45%	40%	49%	Jan. 19	40%	Jan. 4							
91%	84	93	Jan. 21	88%	Jan. 5							
13%	7	10%	Jan. 16	8	Jan. 2							
72	58%	69%	Jan. 15	65	Jan. 5							
...	...	47	Jan. 26	38	Jan. 25							
90%	91%	89	Feb. 11	88	Jan. 29							
159%	138%	152	Jan. 18	142	Jan. 4							
406%	388	425	Jan. 19	399%	Jan. 6							
19%	4	7%	Jan. 25	4	Jan. 12							
31%	8	13%	Jan. 21	6%	Jan. 7							
3	3	4%	Feb. 3	4	Feb. 3							
*113%	*112%	112	Feb. 2	112	Feb. 2							
20%	11	13%	Jan. 25	10%	Jan. 8							
6	3	5	Jan. 11	4	Feb. 5							
11	8	10	Jan. 18	7	Jan. 18							
32%	20%	23%	Jan. 21	21%	Jan. 4							
49%	32	37%	Jan. 22	33%	Jan. 15							
40%	26%	30%	Jan. 26	28	Jan. 16							
15	7%	10	Jan. 6	9%	Jan. 7							
43	28%	30	Jan. 22	26	Feb. 10							
180	160	170	Feb. 13	165	Jan. 26							
110	107%	108%	Feb. 10	108%	Jan. 30							
150%	137%	145%	Jan. 19	140	Jan. 6							
99	37%	94%	Feb. 11	82	Jan. 2							
95	70	96	Jan. 27	90%	Jan. 4							
28%	19%	33%	Feb. 4	24%	Jan. 7							
95	79%	98%	Jan. 28	95	Jan. 14							
134%	111%	118	Jan. 22	112%	Jan. 2							
323%	23%	23%	Jan. 21	21%	Jan. 4							
49%	37%	42%	Jan. 22	33%	Jan. 15							
40%	26%	30%	Jan. 26	28	Jan. 16							
15	7%	10	Jan. 6	9%	Jan. 7							
43	28%	30	Jan. 22	26	Feb. 10							
180	160	170	Feb. 13	165	Jan. 26							
110	107%	108%	Feb. 10	108%	Jan. 30							
150%	137%	145%	Jan. 19	140	Jan. 6							
99	37%	94%	Feb. 11	82	Jan. 2							
95	70	96	Jan. 27	90%	Jan. 4							
28%	19%	33%	Feb. 4	24%	Jan. 7							
95	79%	98%	Jan. 28	95	Jan. 14							
134%	111%	118	Jan. 22	112%	Jan. 2							
ERIE				112,378,900								
Erie 1st pf.				47,892,400								
Erie 2d pf.				16,000,000								
FEDERAL MINING & SMELT...	6,000,000			Jan. 15, '09	1%	..	..	..	10	..	..
Federal Mining & Smelting pf.	12,000,000			Dec. 15, '14	1	Q	28	26	26	- 4	600	
GENERAL CHEMICAL...	11,389,300			Feb. 1, '15	5	Ex	170	160	170	+ 5	565	
General Chemical pf.	14,550,700											

FEB 15

New York Stock Exchange Transactions—Continued

Range for Year 1914— High. Low.				Range for Year 1915— High. Date. Low. Date.				STOCKS.	Amount Stock Listed.	Last Dividend Paid Date.	Per Cent. Per- iod.	High.	Low.	Last.	Net Changes.	Sales	
for Year 1914— High.	Low.	for Year 1915— High.	Date.	Low.	Date.	for Year 1915— High.	Date.										
39%	22%	35%	Jan. 21	25%	Jan. 2	22%	Feb. 10	Great Northern ctfs. for ore prop.	1,500,000	Dec. 22, '14	50c	..	34%	30%	31%	+ 1%	13,870
57%	40%	52%	Jan. 22	45%	Jan. 7	52%	..	Guggenheim Exploration [†]	20,568,600	Jan. 2, '15	87½c	Q	52%	51	51%	+ 3%	5,429
115	110	112	Jan. 20	112	Jan. 20	115	..	HELME (G. W.) CO. pf.	4,000,000	Jan. 2, '15	1%	Q	..	..	112	..	..
120%	109%	*118	Jan. 15	*114	Jan. 8	Homestake Mining	25,116,000	Jan. 25, '15	65c	M	117	117	117	..	..	33	
115	103%	110	Jan. 22	106½	Feb. 10	115	..	ILLINOIS CENTRAL	109,296,000	Sep. 2, '14	2½	SA	107½	106½	107½	+ 1%	200
19%	14%	19%	Jan. 18	16%	Jan. 2	19%	..	Inspiration Consol. Copper ^{††}	15,200,000	..	..	..	19½	18½	19½	+ 1%	6,275
16%	10%	13	Feb. 5	10%	Jan. 16	16%	..	Interborough-Met. vot. tr. ctfs.	85,842,000	..	..	..	13	12½	12½	—	6,500
65%	50	58%	Feb. 11	49	Jan. 19	65%	..	Interborough-Met. pf.	35,037,900	..	..	..	58%	56%	56%	—	10,245
36	19%	12½	Jan. 27	12%	Jan. 19	36	..	International Agricultural pf.	12,970,300	Jan. 15, '15	3½	..	..	..	12½	..	..
113%	82	99%	Jan. 11	92	Jan. 5	113%	..	International Harvester, N. J.	39,999,800	Jan. 15, '15	1½	Q	90½	94%	90%	+ ½	500
118%	113%	117	Jan. 9	113	Feb. 3	118%	..	International Harvester, N. J. pf.	29,994,900	Dec. 1, '14	1%	Q	..	..	113	..	..
112	82	73½	Jan. 11	70	Feb. 1	118	..	International Harvester Corp.	30,998,900	July 15, '14	1%	..	..	..	70	..	..
118	114%	114	Jan. 14	114	Jan. 14	10%	..	International Harvester Corp. pf.	20,992,500	Dec. 1, '14	1%	Q	..	..	114	..	..
41	30%	36	Jan. 16	31	Jan. 9	41	..	International Paper Co.	17,442,900	..	..	..	87%	81½	87%	+ 7%	1,000
29	11	6½	Feb. 6	5	Jan. 4	29	..	International Paper Co. pf.	22,539,700	Jan. 15, '15	1½	Q	39	35	35	—	200
7½	7	8½	Feb. 13	6	Feb. 4	7½	..	International Steam Pump pf.	11,350,000	Feb. 1, '15	1½	..	..	..	6½	..	..
13%	13	18	Feb. 13	18	Feb. 13	13%	..	Iowa Central	3,063,860	..	..	..	8½	7½	8½	+ 1½	1,020
74½	65%	65	Feb. 4	65	Feb. 4	74½	..	Iowa Central pf.	2,308,700	May 1, '09	1½	..	18	18	18	..	180
28½	20%	25%	Jan. 22	21%	Jan. 11	28½	..	KAN. CITY, FT. SCOTT & M. pf.	13,510,000	Jan. 2, '15	1	Q	..	..	65	..	..
62	49%	57%	Jan. 22	56	Jan. 18	62	..	Kansas City Southern	30,000,000	..	..	..	22½	21%	22½	+ 3%	700
94	80	80	Jan. 4	80	Jan. 4	94	..	Kansas City Southern pf.	21,000,000	Jan. 15, '15	1	Q	57	56½	56½	—	210
108%	106	107	Jan. 13	107	Jan. 13	108%	..	Kayser (Julius) & Co.	6,000,000	Jan. 1, '15	1½	Q	..	..	80	..	..
105	81	108½	Feb. 13	99	Jan. 18	105	..	Kayser (Julius) & Co. 1st pf.	2,450,000	Feb. 1, '15	1%	Q	..	..	107	..	..
105	90	106	Feb. 10	106	Feb. 10	105	..	Kresge (S. S.) Co.	4,991,100	Jan. 2, '15	3	SA	108½	104	108½	+ 6½	1,900
141%	125	121½	Jan. 22	112	Jan. 5	141%	..	Kresge (S. S.) Co. pf.	1,752,800	Jan. 2, '15	1%	Q	106	106	106	+ 2	300
40	26%	30	Jan. 29	28	Jan. 7	40	..	LACKAWANNA STEEL CO.	35,000,000	Jan. 31, '13	1	..	30	30	30	+ ½	100
101	85	98	Feb. 9	92%	Jan. 15	101	..	Laclede Gas Co.	10,700,000	Dec. 15, '14	1%	Q	98	98	98	+ ½	200
9	5%	7½	Jan. 22	5	Jan. 5	9	..	Lake Erie & Western	11,840,900	..	..	..	..	..	5½	..	..
156%	118	130%	Jan. 22	130%	Jan. 2	156%	..	Lehigh Valley [†]	60,501,700	Jan. 9, '15	2½	Q	135½	131½	133½	— 1½	15,900
231	207½	220	Jan. 22	207	Jan. 9	231	..	Liggett & Myers	21,496,400	Dec. 1, '14	3	Q	..	..	219	..	..
118%, 111½	111½	119½	Jan. 21	113%	Jan. 5	118%, 111½	..	Liggett & Myers pf.	15,204,300	Jan. 2, '15	1%	Q	119	119	119	+ 1	100
36	28	39	Jan. 20	30	Jan. 11	36	..	Long Island	12,000,000	Nov. 1896	1	..	..	..	37½	..	..
38	26	31	Jan. 11	26	Feb. 9	38	..	Loose-Wiles Biscuit	8,000,000	..	..	..	20	20	20	— 3	100
105	101	105½	Jan. 13	95	Feb. 4	105	..	Loose-Wiles Biscuit 1st pf.	5,000,000	Jan. 2, '15	1%	Q	..	..	95	..	..
190	160	180	Jan. 21	165½	Jan. 6	190	..	Lorillard (P.) Co.	15,155,600	Jan. 2, '15	2½	Q	..	..	178	..	..
117%	110	118	Jan. 19	112½	Jan. 6	117%	..	Lorillard (P.) Co. pf.	11,182,200	Jan. 2, '15	1½	Q	..	..	117	..	..
141%	125	121½	Jan. 22	112	Jan. 5	141%	..	Louisville & Nashville	72,000,000	Feb. 10, '15	2½	SA	117	116	117	+ ½	500
87%	61	75	Jan. 20	72½	Jan. 11	87%	..	MACKAY COMPANIES	41,380,400	Jan. 2, '15	1½	Q	75	75	75	..	10
70	65½	69%	Jan. 19	67%	Feb. 10	70	..	Mackay Companies pf.	50,000,000	Jan. 2, '15	1	Q	67½	67½	67½	— 2½	100
..	..	2	Feb. 9	2	Feb. 9	..	..	Manhattan Beach	5,000,000	..	..	..	2	2	2	..	300
133	128	128	Jan. 20	128	Jan. 20	133	..	Manhattan Elevated gtd.	56,994,100	Jan. 1, '15	1½	Q	..	..	128	..	..
..	..	51	Jan. 29	50	Jan. 28	..	..	Manhattan Shirt Co.	5,000,000	..	..	..	50	50	50	..	100
..	..	101½	Feb. 4	101½	Feb. 4	..	..	Manhattan Shirt Co. pf.	2,377,300	Jan. 2, '15	1%	Q	..	..	101½	..	..
15½	14½	23%	Feb. 11	15½	Jan. 6	15½	..	Maxwell Motors	10,760,360	..	..	..	23%	17½	23	+ 4%	14,441
44	41½	62%	Feb. 11	43½	Jan. 2	44	..	Maxwell Motors 1st pf.	11,217,900	..	..	..	62%	58½	59%	+ 1½	12,290
67%	51½	50	Feb. 10	50	Feb. 10	67%	..	Maxwell Motors 2d pf.	9,016,400	..	..	..	25½	22	24½	+ 2	13,275
101%	97½	97	Jan. 19	97	Jan. 19	101%	..	May Department Stores	15,000,000	Dec. 1, '14	1%	Q	50	50	50	..	10
3%	2½	2½	Jan. 22	1	Jan. 15	3%	..	May Department Stores pf.	7,755,000	Jan. 1, '15	1½	Q	..	..	97	..	..
15½	3	8½	Jan. 22	4	Jan. 13	15½	..	Mercantile Marine	45,145,700	..	..	..	1½	1½	1½	+ ½	100
73%	69%	77	Feb. 9	51	Jan. 9	73%	..	Mercantile Marine pf.	44,661,100	..	..	..	5½	5	5½	+ ½	500
87	67	80½	Feb. 11	67	Jan. 15	87	..	Mexican Petroleum	34,693,500	Aug. 30, '13	1½	..	77	75½	76½	+ 3%	35,020
24%	16%	19½	Jan. 26	17½	Jan. 6	24%</											

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22%	10%	15%	Jan. 26	111% Jan. 4	Seaboard Air Line.....	33,493,600	14	121%	132%	+	2%	1,800
58	45%	41	Jan. 26	36 Feb. 8	Seaboard Air Line pf.....	22,550,500	May 15, '14	1	..	371%	36	35	— 21%	2,600
197%	170%	200% Feb. 1	182% Jan. 4	Sears, Roebuck & Co.....	40,000,000	Nov. 15, '14	1	Q	206	202%	204%	+	2%	1,410
121%	120	125 Feb. 2	121% Jan. 4	Sears, Roebuck & Co. pf.....	8,000,000	Jan. 1, '15	1%	Q	125
35	19%	27% Jan. 22	24 Jan. 6	Sloss-Sheffield Steel & Iron.....	10,000,000	Sept. 1, '10	1%	..	203%	25	203%	+	2%	850
..	..	89% Feb. 4	89% Feb. 4	South Porto Rico Sugar pf.....	3,708,500	Jan. 2, '15	2	Q	89%
90%	81	88% Jan. 22	81% Feb. 5	Southern Pacific.....	272,674,400	Jan. 2, '15	1%	Q	85%	83	84%	+	1%	33,804
166%	92%	98% Jan. 26	95% Feb. 9	Southern Pacific tr. cts.....	4,238,700	96%	93%	96%	+	3%	350
28%	14	18 Jan. 23	14 Jan. 4	Southern Railway.....	120,000,000	16%	14%	15%	+	1%	7,950
85%	58	63 Jan. 26	59 Feb. 10	Southern Railway pf.....	39,999,900	.....	..	USA	55	50	50%	— 6%	2,000
45	32	47% Jan. 19	44% Feb. 13	Standard Milling.....	4,600,000	June 26, '14	2	..	45%	44%	44%	— 1%	10	
67%	59%	70 Jan. 16	69 Jan. 16	Standard Milling pf.....	6,591,500	Oct. 31, '14	2%	SA	69%	69%	69%	— 1%	10,230	
36%	20	47% Feb. 8	37% Jan. 2	Studebaker Co.....	27,931,600	.....	..	..	47%	45	45%	— 1%	..
92	70	96% Jan. 19	91 Jan. 2	Studebaker Co. pf.....	12,180,000	Dec. 1, '14	1%	Q	96	95	95	..	..
36%	24%	33% Jan. 8	28% Feb. 4	TENNESSEE COPPER†.....	5,000,000	Jan. 2, '15	75c	Q	36	29%	26%	..	4,300	
149%	112	157% Jan. 11	131 Jan. 27	Texas Co.....	30,000,000	Dec. 31, '14	2%	Q	123	122%	122%	+	1%	400
17%	11%	14 Jan. 20	11 Jan. 11	Texas Pacific.....	38,760,000	12%	13	12%	+	2%	400
43%	33	48% Jan. 28	33 Jan. 2	Third Avenue.....	16,487,300	46%	45%	45%	+	1%	4,735
121%	2	2 Jan. 11	1 Jan. 6	Toledo, St. Louis & Western.....	10,000,000	.....	..	..	2	2	2	..	100
23	42	9% Jan. 23	6 Jan. 6	Toledo, St. Louis & Western pf.....	10,000,000	Oct. 16, '11	1	..	8	7%	8	+	3%	500
108%	94%	99% Jan. 14	97 Jan. 5	Twin City Rapid Transit.....	21,707,500	Jan. 2, '15	1%	Q	99%	98%	98%	+	1%	900
88	73%	55% Feb. 11	53% Feb. 11	UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER.....	8,500,000	Jan. 1, '15	1	Q	55%	55%	55%	..	100	
113	106	*100% Jan. 23	*100% Jan. 13	Underwood Typewriter pf.....	4,600,000	Jan. 1, '15	1%	Q	..	..	*100%	..	..
87%	35%	6% Jan. 19	4% Jan. 4	Union Bag & Paper Co.....	16,000,000	.....	..	..	6	5%	5%	— 1%	700
32%	18%	28% Jan. 15	26% Jan. 14	Union Bag & Paper Co. pf.....	11,000,000	Oct. 15, '12	1	..	..	..	26%	..	..
164%	112	122% Jan. 22	115% Jan. 2	Union Pacific.....	22,305,200	Jan. 2, '15	2	Q	121%	118%	120	+	7%	48,220
86	77%	81% Jan. 26	79% Jan. 4	Union Pacific pf.....	99,560,300	Oct. 1, '14	2	SA	81%	80%	81	+	1%	1,500
50%	40	29% Jan. 14	27% Jan. 5	Union Pacific warrants.....	.....	..	..	..	28%	28%	28%	— 1%	423
50%	40	45% Feb. 13	42 Jan. 25	United Cigar Manufacturers.....	18,104,000	Feb. 1, '15	1	Q	45%	42%	42%	+	3%	600
103%	90	105 Feb. 11	102% Feb. 1	United Cigar Manufacturers pf.....	5,000,000	Dec. 1, '14	1%	Q	105	105	105	+	2%	100
100%	55%	60 Feb. 11	48% Jan. 12	United Dry Goods pf.....	16,844,000	June 1, '14	1%	..	60	60	60	+	9%	110
23%	7%	14% Jan. 29	8 Jan. 5	United Railways Investment Co.....	20,400,000	.....	..	..	11%	10%	10%	— 1%	700
49%	22	25 Jan. 19	23 Jan. 5	U. S. Cast Iron Pipe & Fy. Co.....	12,106,300	Jan. 10, '07	2%	..	28	27%	27%	— 1%	500	
13%	7%	10 Jan. 19	8 Jan. 5	U. S. Cast Iron Pipe & Fy. Co. pf.....	12,106,300	April 15, '14	1	..	34%	34	34	— 1	270	
49	30	35 Jan. 22	34 Feb. 11	United States Express.....	10,000,000	May 15, '12	3	..	..	..	71	..	..
87	46	71 Jan. 11	71 Jan. 11	United States Industrial Alcohol.....	12,000,000	.....	..	..	..	..	15	..	..
20	15	15 Jan. 27	15 Jan. 27	United States Industrial Alcohol pf.....	6,000,000	Jan. 15, '15	1%	Q	78	78	78	+	3%	120
85%	75	78 Feb. 11	70 Jan. 26	United States Realty & Imp.....	16,162,800	Feb. 1, '15	1	Q	36	36	36	— 4	100	
63%	51%	50 Jan. 12	36 Feb. 11	United States Rubber Co.....	39,000,000	Jan. 30, '15	1%	Q	57%	56	56	..	2,400	
63%	55%	104% Jan. 14	102 Jan. 29	United States Rubber Co. 1st pf.....	39,414,600	Jan. 30, '15	2	Q	103%	103%	103%	+	1%	400
104%	85%	76% Feb. 1	76% Feb. 1	United States Rubber Co. 2d pf.....	558,400	Jan. 30, '15	1%	Q	..	..	70%	..	..
67%	48	53% Jan. 21	38 Feb. 1	United States Steel Corporation.....	508,495,200	Dec. 20, '14	3%	Q	44%	40%	40%	+	2%	161,520
112%	103%	109 Jan. 21	102 Feb. 1	United States Steel Corporation pf.....	300,314,100	Nov. 30, '14	1%	Q	105%	103%	104%	+	7%	10,650
59%	45%	55% Jan. 22	48% Jan. 6	Utah Copper†.....	16,244,900	Dec. 31, '14	75c	Q	54%	52	53	+	3%	15,520
31%	17	22% Jan. 22	15 Jan. 4	VIRGINIA-CAROLINA Chem.....	27,984,400	Feb. 15, '15	1%	..	22%	21	21	+	3%	610
107%	96	88 Jan. 16	80 Jan. 6	Virginia-Carolina Chemical pf.....	20,000,000	Oct. 15, '14	2	..	86	..	86	..	..
52	35	36% Feb. 11	36% Feb. 11	Virginia Iron, Coal & Coke.....	9,073,600	.....	..	..	36%	36%	36%	..	100
..	..	5 Jan. 21	5 Jan. 21	Vulcan Detinning.....	2,000,000	.....	..	..	5	5	5	..	..
35	21	21 Jan. 22	21 Jan. 22	Vulcan Detinning pf.....	1,500,000	Nov. 30, '12	21	..	..	..	21	..	..
4%	1%	1% Jan. 22	1% Jan. 13	WABASH.....	53,200,200	.....	..	..	13%	5%	5%	— 1%	2,050
13	13%	34% Jan. 22	11% Jan. 7	Wabash pf.....	39,200,200	.....	..	..	24%	2	2	— 3%	900
165%	78	85 Jan. 22	77% Jan. 6	Wells-Fargo Express.....	29,967,300	Jan. 15, '15	3	..	..	85	..	..	..
25	10%	21% Jan. 22	9% Jan. 4	Western Maryland.....	49,429,200	.....	..	..	19%	19	19	..	550
58	30	36 Jan. 21	25 Jan. 5	Western Maryland pf.....	10,000,000	Oct. 19, '12	1	..	..	35	..	..	..
66%	53%	64% Feb. 2	57 Jan. 2	Western Union Telegraph.....	99,760,800	Jan. 15, '15	1	Q	64%	63%	62%	— 3%	3,700	
79%	64	71 Jan. 11	67 Jan. 2	Westinghouse E. & M. t.....	35,610,000	Jan. 30, '15	1	Q	71%	70%	71%	+	3%	1,541
124%	115%	118 Jan. 9	118 Jan. 9	Westinghouse E. & M. 1st pf.....	3,998,700	Jan. 15, '15	1%	Q	..	..	118	..	..
6%	2%	3% Jan. 18	1% Jan. 6	Wheeling & Lake Erie.....	20,000,000	.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
21	8%	16 Jan. 18	12 Feb. 6	Wheeling & Lake Erie 1st pf.....	4,986,900	.....	..	..	12	..	..	..	..
11	3	6 Jan. 18	3 Jan. 4	Wheeling & Lake Erie 2d pf.....	11,993,500	44%	44%	44%	+	1%	200
..	..	97 Feb. 11	96 Feb. 11	Willys-Overland.....	20,000,000	Feb. 1, '15	1%	Q	97	96	97	700
48	39%	96 Feb. 13	96 Feb. 9	Willys-Overland pf.....	4,721,000	Jan. 1, '15	1%	Q	96	96	96	500
103%	89	39% Jan. 21	31 Feb. 9	Wisconsin Central.....	16,147,900	.....	..	..	32%	31	32%	..	..
118%	112%	117% Feb. 8	115 Jan. 8	Woolworth (F. W.) Co.....	50,000,000	Dec. 1, '14	1%	Q	94%	93	94	+	1%	1,100
118%	112%	117% Feb. 8	115 Jan. 8	Woolworth (F. W.) Co. pf.....	14,000,000									

Transactions on Other Markets

Week Ended February 13

Baltimore

	Net	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge.
Sales.						
26., Baltimore Trust...121	121	120	120	120	120	..
5., Citizens' Fire...50	50	50	50	50	50	..
32., Con. Power...105	105	105	105	105	105	-1%
3,155., Cosden Co...5	5	5	5	5	5	..
21., Farm. & M. Bank...45	45	45	45	45	45	+ 1%
25., Fidelity & Den...148	148	148	148	148	148	..
56., Houston Oil...10%	11	10	10	10	10	..
7., Maryland Casualty...87	87	87	87	87	87	-1%
29., Merch. & M. Bank...20	20	20	20	20	20	-1%
2., Mercantile Trust...172	172	172	172	172	172	..
125., Munsey Tr., Balt...60	60	60	60	60	60	..
100., Northern Central...85	85	85	85	85	85	-1%
532., Uni. Rys. & El...25	25	25	25	25	25	..
29., Union Trust...66	66	66	66	66	66	..
36., U. S. Fund. & G...191	191	191	191	191	191	..
139., Wayland O. & G...37	37	37	37	37	37	..
4,300	BONDS					
\$1,000., AL C. L. conv. 4s. 86	86	86	86	86	86	-1%
9,000., B&S., P&C. 4%...93	93	93	93	93	93	+ 1%
3,000., Balt. Elec. 5s. sta. 90%...90	90	90	90	90	90	..
3,000., Carolina Cen. 4s. 85	85	85	85	85	85	..
8,000., Chi. Rys. 1st 5s...97	97	97	97	97	97	-1%
3,000., C. & S., Wash. 5s. 101	101	100	100	100	100	..
2,000., C. & S., Balt. 5s. 103%	103%	103%	103%	103%	103%	..
500., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
200., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
4,000., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
800., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
200., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
600., City of B. 4s...101	101	101	101	101	101	..
800., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
300., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
6,500., City of B. 4s...95	95	95	95	95	95	..
300., City of B. 34s. 5s...85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	..
400., City of B. 34s. 5s...85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	..
1,000., Coal & Iron Ry 5s...95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	..
3,000., Con. Coal Ref. 5s...90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	..
15,500., Consol. Coal 6s...100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-1%
21,000., Consol. Gas 4%...85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	..
5,000., Consol. Gas 5s...101%	104%	104%	104%	104%	104%	..
2,000., Con. Power 4%...88	88	88	88	88	88	-1%
5,000., Davison Chem. 3s. 98	98	98	98	98	98	+ 1%
7,000., Elkhorn Fuel 5s...93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	..
10,000., Fair. & Cktr. 5s. 100	100	100	100	100	100	..
4,000., Fla. Southern 4s...88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	..
7,000., Ga. & Ala. 5s...102	102	102	102	102	102	+ 1%
8,000., Ga. So. & Fla. 5s. 102%	102%	102%	102%	102%	102%	..
12,000., Ga. Car. & N. 5s. 102%	102%	102%	102%	102%	102%	..
6,000., Maryland El. 5s...98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	..
1,000., M. & St. P. Jt. 101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	101%	..
32,000., Mt. V. Woodbury						
Cotton Duck 5s...40	36	36	36	36	36	+ 1%
1,000., Port. Ry. Ref. 5s...96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	96%	..
29,000., U. R. & E. 1st 4s...83	83	83	83	83	83	+ 1%
35,000., U. R. & E. Inc. 4s...60%	61	60	60	60	60	-1%
1,000., U. R. & El. fd. 5s...85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	85%	..
800., U. R. & El. fd. 5s. 86	86	86	86	86	86	-1%
1,000., Va. Mid'd 5th 5s. 102%	102%	102%	102%	102%	102%	..
220,000						

Boston

	Net	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge.
Sales.						
100., Adventure...1	1	1	1	1	1	..
68., Atmeeek...265	265	260	260	260	260	-6
21,173., Alaska Gold...20	20	20	20	20	20	+ 1%
5,687., Alaska Gold rts...34	34	32	32	32	32	+ 1%
70., Algoma Gold...45	45	45	45	45	45	..
802., Allouez...42	42	42	42	42	42	+ 1%
2,523., Amalgamated...60	60	60	60	60	60	+ 1%
2,462., American Zinc...200	21	19%	19%	19%	19%	-1%
810., Ariz. Commercial...45	45	45	45	45	45	..
60., Anaconda...20	27%	26%	27%	26%	27%	..
16., Bonanza...23	23	23	23	23	23	-1%
555., Butte & Balak...25	25	25	25	25	25	+ 1%
6,710., Butte & Superior...40	40	40	40	40	40	+ 1%
1,033., Calumet & Ariz...30	53%	53%	53%	53%	53%	+ 1%
65., Calumet & Iteca...300	300	298	298	298	298	+ 1%
600., Centennial...17	18%	17	18%	18%	18%	+ 1%
911., China...37	37	36%	36%	36%	36%	+ 1%
1,636., Copper Range...35	35	35	35	35	35	+ 1%
115., Daly-West...2	2	2	2	2	2	..
1,535., East Butte...84	84	84	84	84	84	+ 1%
183., Franklin...5	5	5%	5	5	5	+ 1%
2,067., Granby...65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%	+ 1%
4,167., Greene-Cananea...20	20	20	20	20	20	+ 1%
135., Hancock...12	12	12	12	12	12	..
29., Hedley Gold...28	28	28	28	28	28	..
85., Inspiration...187	191	187	187	187	187	+ 1%
375., Indiana...4	4	4	4	4	4	..
36., Isle Creek...45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	45%	..
50., Isle Creek pi...87	88	87%	88	87%	88	+ 2%
675., Isle Royale...21	21	21	21	21	21	+ 1%
242., Kerr Lake...4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	-1%
23., Keweenaw...3	3	3	3	3	3	+ 1%
310., Lake Copper...6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	..
156., La Salle...4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	+ 1%
670., Mass. Consol...2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	-1%
305., Mayflower...5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	..
90., Miami...18%	19%	18%	18%	18%	18%	+ 1%
50., Mason Valley...1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	..
55., Mohawk...60%	57%	58%	58%	58%	58%	+ 1%
325., Nevada Consol...12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	+ 1%
1,535., New Arcadian...5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	..
815., Niplasing...5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	..
3,210., North Butte...23	21%	23	23	23	23	+ 1%
225., Old Colony...4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	+ 1%
120., Old Dominion...4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	+ 1%
530., Ossocella...68	72	68	71	72	72	+ 2%
400., Pond Creek...14%	14%	14	14	14	14	+ 1%

700,000

Chicago

	Net	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge.
Sales.						
17., Am. Tel. & Tel...120%	120%	120%	120%	120%	120%	..
76., Booth Fish. pi...71	72	71	72	71	71	+ 1%
350., Chi. Pneu. Tool. 47%	50	47	50	47	47	+ 1%
575., Chi. Rys. Ser. 2...26%	26%	25%	26%	26	26	..
50., Chi. Rys. Ser. 4...2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	..
607., Common Edison...120%	127	126	127	127	127	+ 1%
82., Diamond Match...96	98	96	98	97	97	..
40., Deere & Co. pi...88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	88%	..
294., Hart, Schaffner & Marx pi...106%	106%	106%	106%	106%	106%	..
15., Illinois Brick...62	62	62	62	62	62	..
30., Int. Harv., N. J. 96	96	96	96	96	96	..
169., K. C. Ry. & L. 30	30	30	30	30	30	+ 1%
309., K. C. Ry. & L. 30	30%	28	28	28	28	..
59., K. C. Ry. & L. pi. 53	57	53	57	57	57	+ 1%

Transactions on Other Markets

Net						
Sales.	Open.	High.	Low.	Last.	Chge.	
1,000. L.V. cons. 42s, 23.1000 1000 1000 ..						
2,000. La. Val. Coal 5s... 104s 104s 104s ..						
2,000. Market St. El. 4s. 93 93 93 ..						
1,000. Penn. 4s. 104s .. 97s 97s 97s ..						
50,000. Penn. c. 42s, w. 1.1000 104s 104s ..						
2,000. Peo. P. Ry. 4s. t. r. 82 82 82 ..						
6,000. P.C.C. & St. L. 42s.						
Series A..... 101s 101s 101s ..						
2,000. Phila. Elec. g. 5s. 102s 102s 101s ..						
9,000. Phila. Elec. 4s... 78 78 78 ..						
400. Phila. El. 4s. sm. 80 80 80 ..						
300. Phila. El. 5s. sm. 101s 101s 101s ..						
1,133. Phila. Co. scrip. 16 90 90 90 ..						
3,881. Phila. Co. scrip. 18 80 80 80 ..						
20,000. Reading gen. 4s. 94s 94s 93s ..						
5,000. Reading-J. C. 4s. 93s 93s 93s ..						
10,000. U. S. 2s. reg. 90 90 90 ..						
4,000. Union Ry. 4s. t. r. 73s 73s 73s ..						
2,000. Welzbach 5s .. 90 90 90 ..						
1,000. West J. & Sea. 4s. 97s 96s 96s ..						

\$28,014

Pittsburgh

Net						
Sales.	Open.	High.	Low.	Last.	Chge.	
150. Am. W. Glass pf. 113 115 113 114s ..						
230. Am. Sewer Pipe.. 18s 18s 18 18s ..						

Sales.						
	Open.	High.	Low.	Last.	Chge.	
2,255. Col. Gas & Elec.. 11 11 10s ..						
35. Caney River Gas. 24 24 24 ..						
305. Crucible Steel 13s 14 .. 13s 14 ..						
305. Crucible Steel pf. 78s 80 .. 78s 80 ..						
20. Harb.-W. Ref. pf. 98s 98s .. 98s 98s ..						
250. Independent Brew 23s 23s .. 23s 23s ..						
62. Ind. Brew. pf... 29 28 .. 28s 28s ..						
100. La. Belle Iron.... 29 29 29 ..						
13. Lone Star Gas... 94s 96s .. 94s 94s ..						
590. Mfrs. L. & H.... 40s 40s .. 40s 40s ..						
89. Nat. Fireproofing. 5s 5s .. 5s 5s ..						
873. Nat. Firep. pf... 29 29 .. 29 29 ..						
580. Ohio Fuel Oil... 14s 14s .. 14s 14s ..						
30. Ohio Fuel Supply. 40s 40s .. 40s 40s ..						
80. Oklahoma Gas. 57 57 57 ..						
70. Osage & Okla... 67s 68s .. 67s 68s ..						
328. Pittsburgh Brew. 5 5 .. 4s 4s ..						
10. Pitts. Brew. pf... 21 21 .. 21 21 ..						
130. Pitts. Coal 19 21s 19 21s ..						
145. Pitts. Coal pf... 91 91 .. 91s 91s ..						
38. Pitts. Plate Glass. 107 107 .. 107 107 ..						
10. Pitts. Oil & Gas. 6 6 .. 6 6 ..						
400. Pitts. Silver Peak. 13 13 .. 13 13 ..						
1,030. Pure Oil 14s 15 14s 14s ..						
1,200. San Toy 11 11 .. 11 11 ..						
151. Union S. & Signal. 93 93 .. 94 94 ..						
48. Union Gas 131 131 131 131 ..						
165. U. S. Steel.... 41s 41s .. 41s 41s ..						
257. Westhouse A. B. 129 129 .. 119s 119s ..						
49. Westhouse Mach. 12s 12s .. 12s 12s ..						
143. Westhouse Elec. 35s 35s .. 35s 35s ..						

BONDS						
	88,000. Ind. Brew. Gs.... 60 60 ..	50s	50s	..		
25,000. Pitts. Coal 5s... 93 93 .. 93 93 ..						
12,000. Pitts. Brew. Gs... 62 62 .. 50s 50s ..						

\$45,000

Notes—Short Term Values—Equipments

Saturday, February 13

Name.	Rate.	Maturity.	Bld.	Ask.	Yield.	
Amalgamated Copper .. 5 Mar. 15, '15 100s 100s 2.50						
American Locomotive .. 5 July, 1915 100s 100s 3.35						
Am. Tel. & Tel. sub.... 5 Apr. 1916 100s 100s 4.60						
American Tob. Scrip.... 6 Dec. 15, '15 100s 100s 5.40						
Argentine Govt 6 Dec. 15, '16 100s 100s 5.75						
Argentine Govt 6 Dec. 15, '17 100s 100s 5.85						
Baltimore & Ohio 4s June, 1915 100s 100s 3.00						
Bethlehem Steel 5 June 11, '15 100s 100s 2.80						
Brooklyn Rapid Transit. 3 July, 1918 96s 100 5.00						
Canadian Pacific 6 Mar. 2, '23 102s 103s 5.50						
Chesapeake & Ohio.... 5 June, 1919 92s 92 7.45						
Chicago & West. Ind.... 5 Sept., 1915 100 100s 4.50						
Chicago Elevated Rys.... 5 July, 1916 65s 100s 7.60						
City of Montreal 5 Dec., 1917 98s 100s 4.95						
Consum. Power 6 May 1, '17 97s 99 6.50						
Erie Railroad 5 Apr., 1915 100 100s 3.00						
Erie Railroad 5 Oct., 1915 100s 100s 4.20						
Erie Railroad 5 Apr., 1917 97s 98 6.50						
General Motors 6 Oct., 1915 101s 101s 3.00						
General Rubber 4s July, 1915 100 100s 3.90						
Harlem River & Port.... 5 May, 1915 98s 99s 6.89						
Havana El. Ry., L. & P. 6 Sept. 1, '16 99s 98 6.80						
Hocking Valley 6 Nov., 1915 101s 101s 4.20						
International Harvester. 5 Feb. 15, '18 99s 100 5.00						
Lackawanna Steel 5 Mar., 1915 96s 100s 4.10						
Lake Shore & Mich. So. 5 Sept., 1915 100s 100s 3.90						
Lake Shore & Mich. So. 5 Dec., 1915 100s 100s 3.90						
Louisville Gas & Elec.... 6 Apr., 1918 96s 97s 6.75						
Minn. General Electric. 6 June, 1918 99s 100 6.00						
Missouri Pacific 6 June, 1915 92 92 30.00						
Montreal Tram & Pow. 6 Apr., 1915 100 100s 3.60						
New England Nav.... 6 May, 1917 92s 93s 9.70						
N. Y. C. & H. R. R. 5 Apr., 1915 100 100s 3.00						
N. Y. C. & H. R. R. 5s May, 1915 100 100s 2.75						
N. Y. C. & H. R. R. 5s Sep. 15, '15 100s 100s 4.15						
N. Y. C. & H. R. R. 5 Oct., 1915 100 100s 4.20						
N. Y. C. & H. R. R. 5 May, 1915 98s 98s 6.80						
Northern States Power. 6 June, 1917 98s 98s 6.25						
Pacific Gas & Electric. 5 Dec. 15, '15 100 100s 4.55						
Penn. R. R. conv.... 5s Oct., 1915 100 100s 3.10						
Pub. Serv. Corp. of N. J. 5 Mar., 1916 99s 100 5.00						
Seaboard Air Line.... 5 Mar., 1916 98s 100 5.00						
Southern Railway 5 Feb., 1916 99s 100 5.00						
Southern Railway 5 Mar., 1917 98s 98s 5.75						
Sulzberger & Sons. 6 June, 1916 99s 100s 5.85						
U. S. Smelt., R. & M. 5 June, 1918 94 6.40						
Union Typewriter 5 Jan. 15, '16 97s 98 6.85						
United Fruit 6 May, 1917 101 101s 6.35						
United Fruit 5 May, 1918 97s 98s 5.55						
Utah Company 6 April, 1917 97s 98s 6.85						
West. Penn. Traction. 6 Mar., 1917 96 98s 6.80						
Western Power 6 July, 1915 99s 100s 5.00						
Western States Gas & Elec. 6 Oct., 1917 96 97s 7.00						

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PUBLIC UTILITY NEWS

Colorado Power Company

Gross earnings for the year ended Dec. 31 last were \$745,500, an increase of \$51,284 over 1913, and net \$478,712, a gain of \$15,413.

* * *

Detroit United Railway

Earnings and disbursements for 1914, compared with those for 1913, were:

	1914.	1913.
Gross earnings	\$12,240,004	\$12,723,828
Operating expenses	8,702,660	8,634,221
Net earnings	3,537,344	4,029,598
Other income	273,728	251,938
Total income	3,811,072	4,281,535
Interest and taxes	2,166,072	2,151,058
Balance	1,645,000	2,150,477
Depreciation and reserve	314,000	600,000
Balance for dividends	1,301,000	1,530,477
Dividends	750,000	750,000
Surplus	551,000	780,477

* * *

Fairmont Gas Company

James C. Watson of Fairmont, W. Va., has been elected President of the company to succeed Jere H. Wheelwright, who retired, and John M. Daniel, President of the Union Trust Company of Baltimore, has been elected Vice President to succeed Mr. Watson.

* * *

Federal Light and Traction

Income account for 1914 and 1913 compares as follows:

	1914.	1913.
Gross earnings	\$227,935	\$219,869
Operating expenses and taxes	151,539	151,702
Net earnings from sub. cos.	96,135	68,167
Federal Light and Traction	4,049	1,637
Total income	100,184	66,330
Interest charges	51,115	46,110
Net income	49,069	20,420
For the year ended Dec. 31:		
Gross earnings	2,416,960	2,272,174
Operating expenses and taxes	1,498,684	1,443,234
Net earnings subsidiary companies	918,276	828,940
Federal Light and Traction Co.	29,623	36,640
Total income	888,633	802,300
Interest charges	586,155	531,787
Central Ark. Ry. and Lt. div.	84,000	63,000
Federal Light and Traction div.	112,500	150,000
Net income	105,998	147,513

* * *

Halifax Electric Tramway

Earnings for the year 1914 compared with those of the previous year were:

	1914.	1913.
Total gross earnings	\$645,241	\$605,932
Expenses	375,423	337,008
Net earnings	269,818	268,925
Interest	30,224	30,000
Balance	239,594	238,925
Renewals, &c.	780	8,618
Balance	238,814	230,307
Dividend	112,000	112,000
Surplus	126,814	118,307

* * *

Interborough-Metropolitan

The United States Court of Appeals has unanimously affirmed the decision of Judge Hough dismissing the suit of Clarence Venner to break up the Interborough-Metropolitan as a monopoly, and to declare void a mortgage made by the Interborough Rapid Transit Company to the Morton Trust Company as Trustee.

* * *

Kansas City Railway & Light

The plan for reorganization filed in the Federal Court at Kansas City, Mo., provides for issues of mortgage securities to be exchanged for \$24,920,000 overdue securities and to retire \$3,100,000 due in 1922 and 1929. The \$9,407,500 preferred and \$9,543,000 common stocks of the company outstanding in the hands of the public will remain undisturbed. To meet immediate working capital requirements of \$3,400,000 new 25-year 6 per cent. second lien railway and light notes will be issued, the security being secondary to that behind the first lien notes.

* * *

Kings County Electric Light and Power Company

Combined income account for 1914 compares as follows with the two years preceding:

	1914.	1913.	1912.
Gross	\$6,244,385	\$5,655,200	\$5,167,660
Net after tax	3,051,029	2,706,738	2,488,966
Depreciation	974,497	788,898	700,638
Balance	2,076,532	2,007,840	1,788,236
Other income	72,504	72,080	62,502
Total income	2,149,037	2,079,920	1,850,830
Bond discount	20,268	20,268	20,268
Fixed charges	844,186	850,826	878,675
Surplus	*1,284,581	1,202,825	951,884
Dividends	1,057,228	970,428	800,000
Surplus	237,353	232,397	151,884
†Payment	66,596	50,654	47,711
Surplus	160,737	175,743	103,173
Previous surplus	1,830,147	1,690,625	1,602,495
P. & L. surplus	2,019,904	1,806,368	1,705,668

*Equal to 9.65 per cent. on \$13,308,100 stock compared with 9.29 per cent. earned on \$12,942,000 in previous year. †Payment to Brooklyn Edison investment fund in accordance with employees' profit-sharing plan. †After miscellaneous adjustments.

* * *

Louisville Gas and Electric

H. M. Bylesby reports that within a year after the consolidation of the lighting companies in Louisville, Ky., the number of users of electric light in that city had increased 6,015, or 35 per cent., and the total connected electric load gained 8,642 kilowatts, or 24 per cent.

People's Gas Light Company

Income account for three years compares as follows:

	1914.	1913.	1912.
Gross	\$16,800,538	\$16,825,534	\$16,370,936
Expenses	10,011,034	10,407,956	10,267,620
Net	6,789,505	6,417,578	6,103,317
Interest	2,390,600	2,236,793	2,193,606
Balance	4,398,905	4,180,785	3,900,711
Depreciation	1,106,437	1,203,721	1,289,961
Surplus	*3,292,468	2,887,064	2,639,759
Dividends	2,964,774	2,537,500	2,450,000
Surplus	327,694	349,564	189,750

*Equal to 8.55 per cent. earned on \$38,500,000 capital stock against 7.49 per cent. on same stock previous year.

* * *

United Railways of St. Louis

The company reports for the year ended Dec. 31, in comparison with the preceding year:

	1914.	1913.	Decrease.
Gross earnings	\$12,450,924	\$12,702,644	\$251,720
Net aft. op. ex. & taxes	3,126,296	3,559,703	433,407
Interest charges	2,618,253	2,660,673	42,418
Surplus	508,040	899,029	390,989

* * *

News Digest

FORECAST AND COMMENT

George W. Perkins

The responsibility for future prosperity is solely up to the sober, able business men of this country. They can no longer shirk this responsibility without disastrous results. They have shirked it right and left, and have only been saved up to date because of the unsurpassed resources of our land and the indomitable energy of our men.

* * *

Dun's Review

Most of the developments are along lines of further strengthening of confidence and a moderate, though perceptible, expansion in trade activity. Financially the United States is becoming sounder and stronger every day.

* * *

Bradstreet's

Gains in trade continue of a small though cumulative character, with actual improvement still trailing behind optimistic sentiment. Likewise industries, notably iron and steel, coke, textiles, and automobile manufacturing, are rounding into better shape, but concededly at a slow pace, and in consequence unemployment, the proportions of which have probably been overexaggerated by many, is giving way to increased employment and larger pay rolls.

* * *

Ambassador Nujica of Chile

If, as a consequence of the European events of this mournful year, and as a result of the vigorous movement now going on in this country for the tightening of the trade bonds with South America, and through the greater facilities to be afforded by the Panama Canal, we succeed in diviating the currents which up to the present have led toward Europe almost all of our economic activities, you may rest assured of finding in our markets a vast field for an honest commercial interchange reciprocally advantageous. In Chile, particularly, the topography of the land affords splendid facilities for our industrial development.

* * *

Iron Trade Review

More attention apparently is being given to the favorable factors pointing toward present and future improvement in the steel industry, and the tone gradually is becoming more confident.

The recent growth in the value of business is making further progress, though the gradations of change from week to week, generally speaking, are of mild character.

* * *

James A. Farrell (President United States Steel Corporation)

There is a strong sentiment for co-ordinated effort in the trade activities; confidence in the business future of the country is growing. Our internal conditions are better than they have been for a long time and, due to easier financial circumstances and an export movement of unexampled volume in foodstuffs and other commodities, a balance of trade is piling up which will place the business of the country upon firm foundations.

* * *

Mayor Mitchel of New York

All business is going through a difficult stage. Great problems have presented themselves. From the condition that has confronted us recently better times are going to come.

* * *

John V. Farwell Company, Chicago

The large number of retail merchants and buyers in the market this week on account of the Fashion Show is making wholesale dry goods business very brisk. The attendance has been unusually gratifying.

* * *

Marshall Field & Co.

More than double the number of buyers visited the market as compared with the same week a year ago.

* * *

John Moody

As time goes on during the next two or three months, we are likely to see the abnormal international trade situation made still more abnormal. Since the first of the year there has undoubtedly been a steady but quiet liquidation of American securities by foreign investors, but the reason why this liquidation has not been felt in the New York markets, and has not created any serious apprehension, is that our own exchange situation is so exceptionally strong that the sales of securities in this market are having no effect on money conditions. Instead of shipping us gold as they normally would, the foreign markets are sending us back as large a part of our securities as they care to let go at the present time.

GENERAL

Financial Chronology

Monday, Feb. 8

Stock market strong. Money on call, 24 1/2 per cent. Demand sterling, \$4.83.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Stock market closes at a reaction from early strength. Money on call, 24 1/2 per cent. Demand sterling, \$4.82%, the lowest level since 1907.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Stock market recovers. Directors of the New York Central approve the issuance by the company of \$100,000,000 6 per cent. convertible debenture bonds. United States Steel Corporation gains 411,928 tons in unfilled orders in January, with a total of 4,248,571 tons on hand at the end of the month. Bank of England releases from its special gold reserve at Ottawa \$2,500,000 for shipment to this city. Money on call, 24 1/2 per cent. Demand sterling, \$4.83%.

Thursday, Feb. 11

Stock market strong. Interstate Commerce Commission renders decision in intermountain rate cases, modifying in favor of the railroads previous order of the commission. Money on call, 17 1/2 per cent. Demand sterling, \$4.82%, a new low point since 1907.

Friday, Feb. 12

Holiday—Stock market closed.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Stock market reactionary.

* * *

Stock Exchange Minimum Prices

hands of the committee, including original deposits and substitutions, both withdrawals and deposits, collateral amounting to \$69,610,899, of which \$32,994,600, or 58.87 per cent., consisted of commercial paper, and \$267,616,000, or 41.13 per cent., of bonds and securities. The highest amount of applications approved on any day was \$20,763,000 on Aug. 3, secured by commercial paper amounting to \$14,745,000 and bonds \$4,529,000.

Nation Acquires Forest Lands

The National Forest Reservation Commission has approved the purchase of 35,570 acres in addition to the 1,114,208 acres already approved for purchase for national forests in the White Mountains of New England and the Southern Appalachian region. The lands have been examined and appraised and sales contracts will be made with the owners by the Secretary of Agriculture.

* * *

Russian Loan Completed

The Russian bills drawn in connection with the \$25,000,000 loan to that country arranged by J. P. Morgan have all been accepted. They bear interest at 5 per cent. and under the agreement were discounted at 5 per cent.

* * *

Private Banks Prosper

Sixty-nine private bankers in the State of New York, according to a report compiled by Supt. Richards of the State Banking Department at the close of business Dec. 24 last, had total deposits of \$9,882,211, and total resources of \$18,462,002. Their stock and bond investments consisted of public securities valued at \$2,217,117, and private securities valued at \$2,980,653. They owned real estate to the value of \$5,573,448, and mortgages amounting to \$1,434,865.

* * *

Coll Margin Trading: Gambling

Buying and selling stocks on margins is gambling, and those who suffer losses by such transactions on the part of stock brokers can recover, according to a decision handed down by the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio last week. The decision was rendered in a case where a broker sought to file an appeal from a judgment ordering him to pay \$2,000 damages for money lost by a client in the stock market.

RAILROADS

Weekly Gross Earnings

Following are the latest week's earnings of a number of important railroads, with changes from the corresponding week a year before:

FIRST FEBRUARY	Amount.	Changes.
Buffalo, Rochester & Pitts.	\$167,430	-\$36,857
Canadian Northern	232,900	-70,209
Canadian Pacific	1,440,000	-312,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	623,522	+ 8,218
Chicago, Indianapolis & Louis.	166,677	-11,827
Colorado & Southern	252,983	+ 29,934
Denver & Rio Grande	319,900	-48,900
Missouri, Kansas & Texas	664,585	-14,424
Missouri Pacific	1,016,000	-69,000
St. Louis Southwestern	133,000	-57,000
Texas and Pacific	344,132	+ 7,445

Boston & Maine

It was announced on Friday that the bill filed in the Massachusetts Legislature by the Federal Trustees of the Boston & Maine Railroad, providing for the reorganization of the road by the consolidation of its subsidiary lines, will be redrafted. Following a conference between the Public Service Commission, the Trustees, and Gov. Walsh, the latter stated that while no definite conclusions regarding the revised bill were reached, it had been agreed that the Trustees and the commission should modify some of the provisions of the measure now before the Legislature.

* * *

Indianapolis Union Railway

The company proposes to execute a mortgage upon its properties, leases, and contracts to secure an issue of general and refunding fifty-year bonds in an amount not to exceed \$10,000,000, the interest on which is to be guaranteed jointly and severally by the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis, the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis, and the Vanderbilt Railroads. A special meeting of stockholders of the road first named has been called for March 15 to take action on the proposition.

* * *

New Haven

A bill to amend the Rhode Island charter of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad in connection with the company's plan for the financial rehabilitation of the road was favorably reported by the Rhode Island Legislative Committee on Corporations on Friday.

* * *

New York Central Railroad Company

Directors of the company, which is a consolidation of the New York Central and Lake Shore lines, at their regular monthly meeting last Wednesday approved the issuance of \$100,000,000 6 per cent., twenty-year convertible debenture bonds to be dated May 1, 1915. On the day following J. P. Morgan & Co., who will head a syndicate to underwrite all the bonds not subscribed for by stockholders, announced that applications from those who wished to participate in the underwriting had exceeded the entire amount of the issue. The action of the Directors has yet to be ratified by the stockholders and the Public Service Commission of New York. Stockholders at a special meeting called for April 20 will be asked to authorize the issuance of \$100,000,000 of stock to provide for conversion of the bonds. The stockholders will be given the right to subscribe for the new bonds to the extent of 40 per cent. of the par value of their holdings. It is proposed to use the proceeds from the sale of these bonds to pay off an equal amount of the company's floating indebtedness. Judge Keogh at White Plains last Wednesday granted a stay of final judgment in the action brought by the Continental Securities Company, which is trying to prevent the New York Central from exchanging 4 per cent. bonds for \$70,000,000 Lake Shore 3½ per cent. bonds.

* * *

Pennsylvania Railroad

The Directors have decided to request stockholders for authority to increase the indebtedness of the company to the extent of \$40,000,000. Under action taken in March, 1909, authority to increase the indebtedness \$80,-

000,000 at present exists, and the \$40,000,000 bonds recently sold were issued under this authorization.

* * *

Rock Island

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced that it will resume its hearing into the financial affairs of the company on Feb. 25. Commissioner Clements is expected to preside. "Gifts" made to some of the former Rock Island officials, it is said, will be made a subject of inquiry.

* * *

Wabash

Edward F. Kearney, First Vice President of the Texas & Pacific, was last Thursday appointed co-receiver to act with E. B. Pryor, who has been one of the receivers since the road went into bankruptcy. Along with the appointment of Mr. Kearney, Judge Adams of the United States Circuit Court at St. Louis authorized the issuance of receivers' notes to the extent of \$1,545,000 to be used in taking up equipment notes of an equal amount past due. The new notes will be of two classes, one amounting to \$618,000, bearing 8 per cent. interest, and the other, amounting to \$927,000, bearing 4½ per cent. interest. Securities with a par value of about \$12,000,000 will be offered at a foreclosure sale at the County Court House in New York on March 12, in accordance with a decree of the United States District Court. These securities represent the collateral for the \$5,000,000 4½ per cent. notes originally issued on May 1, 1905, and extended on May 1, 1913, when interest was defaulted. The Protective Committee representing the note holders is expected to bid for the principal parcel of securities offered, consisting of \$5,000,000 par value first refunding and extension bonds of the Wabash Railroad Company with interest coupons from March 1, 1912, attached.

* * *

Western Pacific

Plans for scaling down the \$50,000,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds which are guaranteed as to interest by the Denver & Rio Grande are under consideration by the Directors of the latter road, who were in conference in New York City last week.

INDUSTRIAL, MISCELLANEOUS

American Brake Shoe and Foundry

Earnings for year ended Sept. 30 last were \$1,659,745; interest on bonds, \$36,172; net profits, \$1,623,572; preferred dividends, \$400,000; common, \$322,000; surplus, \$301,572. Total surplus is \$4,502,918, and total assets and liabilities, each \$16,175,011.

* * *

Atlantic Refining Company

Earnings last year and for the two preceding years compare as follows:

	1914.	1913.	1912.
Profits from operation..	\$949,741	\$3,734,232	\$4,953,952
Loss by depreciation of inventories ..	1,932,142	*74,545	*2,343,720
Total deficit ..	961,402	\$3,808,777	\$7,297,672
Dividends ..	250,000	.....	.....
Deficit ..	1,241,402	\$3,808,777	\$7,297,672
Previous surplus ..	21,966,912	18,188,135	10,890,463
Profit and loss surplus..	20,755,510	21,966,912	18,188,135
*Profit from appreciation. *Surplus.	.....	.....	.....

* * *

Automatic Electric Company

Earnings for 1914 compare with those of the previous year as follows:

	1914.	1913.
Gross earnings ..	\$562,908	\$463,382
Expenses ..	290,362	303,321
Balance ..	272,546	990,061
Bond interest ..	48,870	50,052
Net earnings ..	223,676	550,000
Reserve ..	.....	72,000
Surplus ..	223,676	478,000

* * *

Booth Fisheries

F. S. James was elected a Director of the company last week to succeed F. C. Loucks. F. L. Smithers was elected Treasurer. For the year ended Dec. 31 last, net profits from operations were \$1,210,724, a decrease of \$149,730 from the previous year. After deducting administrative expenses amounting to \$289,237 there was left a balance of \$921,489 applicable to interest, sinking fund, depreciation, and other charges, as compared with \$779,610 in 1913. The balance carried to surplus in 1914 was \$183,391.

* * *

J. G. Brill Company

Earnings for the year ended Dec. 31 last compare with the previous year as follows:

	1914.	1913.
Gross earnings ..	\$4,903,510	\$3,154,433
Net earnings ..	313,105	1,064,377
Depreciation reserve ..	154,221	155,234
Surplus ..	158,883	909,143
Total surplus ..	1,694,299	2,142,761
Surplus after dividends ..	1,368,370	1,353,416

* * *

China Copper

Earnings for the quarter ended Dec. 31, 1914, compare with those of the corresponding quarter the previous year as follows:

	1914.	1913.
Milling profits ..	\$239,291	\$778,143
Miscellaneous income ..	26,731	33,944
Total income ..	285,032	\$82,087
Dividends ..	434,970	645,045
Deficit ..	149,638	*106,822
*Surplus.	.....	.....

* * *

Equitable Life Assurance Society

The annual statement shows that payments to policy holders in 1914 amounted to \$56,700,000, which was over \$2,000,000 in excess of the amount received in premiums from policy holders during the year. Insurance on the company's books now aggregates nearly \$1,500,000,000, a gain of \$23,000,000 for the year. New insurance paid for in 1914 totaled \$136,867,000, exclusive of additions, increases, and revivals.

* * *

Hercules Powder Company

The company's report for the year ended Dec. 31 compares with the preceding year as follows:

	1914.	1913.
Gross receipts ..	\$7,927,801	\$7,640,741
Net earnings, all sources ..	1,434,755	1,467,212
Bond interest ..	187,500	300,000

* * *

Preferred dividends ..	1914.	1913.
Total deductions ..	225,500	.....
Bal. for com. stock and imp..	411,050	\$30,000
	1,623,605	1,617,212

* * *

International Smokeless Powder

J. P. Laffey and C. R. Mudge have been elected Directors to succeed A. J. Maxham and C. S. Patterson. Earnings last year compare as follows with those in 1913:

	1914.	1913.
Net from sales ..	\$246,075	\$306,734
Interest, dividends, &c. ..	3,001	3,000
Total net ..	240,000	\$30

War-Time Food Prices

A Study of Their Course in the United Kingdom and Germany Since War Broke Out—Measures Taken by Berlin Government to Conserve Its Supply

THE advancing cost of living resulting from the war has naturally been severely felt in England and Germany. But though prices in England have risen to a point where the strictest economy is demanded of all, she has found it unnecessary so far to resort to any very extraordinary measures to conserve her supply of food. That such measures have not been necessary is, no doubt, due to the fact that she has retained command of the seas. Germany, less favored in its relations with the world, has been compelled to take stringent measures toward the hoarding of her stock of food. Last month the Berlin Government announced that it would, on Feb. 1, take over all the corn and flour in the country. That course is the most severe as yet resorted to. It was evidently made necessary by the failure of earlier efforts to enforce national frugality as rigidly as the situation demanded.

MINIMUM PRICES FIXED

For some time after the outbreak of war the German Government made no important move toward preventing a food crisis beyond passing a law upon which its present actions are based. The downward tendency of prices, which followed quickly a sharp rise in the first few days of August, possibly was taken as an indication that no extraordinary measures would be necessary. But in the opening days of September, official crop estimates made it apparent that the yields of the principal crops would be smaller than in the previous year, and as a result prices began rapidly to climb to higher levels. By the end of October they had reached such a high point that the authorities deemed it advisable to, and accordingly did, on Oct. 28, issue a decree fixing maximum prices for breadstuffs, forage crops, &c.

The maximum prices fixed varied considerably in different localities. For wheat the range was from 249½ marks to 277½ marks, and this price was to remain in force until Dec. 31. After that date it was permitted to raise the price 1½ marks every two weeks. The effect of this, it was found, was to keep wheat off the market. Farmers preferred to hold their grain in anticipation of the higher rates, which it seemed certain would prevail after the first of the year.

A FAILURE OF PATRIOTISM

The decree contained many conditions and exceptions. For example, millers were compelled under its provisions to add to wheat flour 10 per cent. of rye flour; farmers were instructed to refrain from feeding rye instead of barley to their live stock, and bakers were asked, on patriotic grounds, to use 20 per cent. of potato starch in making rye bread; they were required to use not less than 5 per cent. Before long, however, it was reported that the decree was being ignored in many places and that its enforcement was rendered difficult through the impossibility of establishing Government supervision on all farms and in the mills and bakeries.

Seeing that it was not so effective as had been anticipated, the decree was amended on Dec. 19 with a view to attracting greater supplies, particularly of corn, to the market, but this, too, failed.

Another amendment, effective Nov. 25, fixed a maximum price for potatoes, but this was a producers' price, and neither wholesalers nor retailers were affected.

The general course of food prices in the United Kingdom and in Germany in the war period has been much the same, though the rise in the latter country has been much more pronounced than in the former. In both a very sharp advance followed almost immediately on the heels of war, carrying the price level in the United Kingdom on Aug. 8 to some 15 or 16 per cent. above the more normal prices of July, while in Berlin—where, it may be assumed from the meagre data available from other districts, prices are representative of the general trend in Germany—the August level was 13.5 per cent. higher than the average for July.

HIGHER PRICES

As with the first rise of prices in this country, which came at approximately the same time, but culminated somewhat later, the advance in the first few weeks was too rapid to sustain, and the consequent reaction carried the September level of prices down to about 10 per cent. above the July normal. A comparison of the percentages of increase over July in the general level of food prices

in the United Kingdom and in Berlin is given in the table below:

	United Kingdom.—		
	Large	Small	Towns
	Towns.	Villages.	Towns. and Villages.
August	13.3	11	11
September	10.5	11	9
October	16.4	13	11
November	20.9	13	12
December	17	15	
January	19	17	

Following the reaction in September, prices advanced steadily and without interruption, and the level is now well above the high point recorded in the first upswing in August. Though the greater part of the rise must necessarily be attributed to causes related to the war, seasonal influences are also a factor, since dairy products always tend upward as the year advances.

The articles showing the greatest advances in the United Kingdom are sugar, fish and eggs. On Aug. 8, the price of sugar was 80 or 90 per cent. above the level of the preceding month. In the following three weeks it fell a little, but rose again in September. Another decline followed which continued through the last three months of the year, but it was not so great as the rise in September. The price movement of eggs was similar to that of sugar for the first two months after the war started, but it did not react in the same way; the advance continued through the remainder of the year. On Jan. 1, however, there was a slight decline. The upward trend of fish has been less constant, and prices have, in fact, fluctuated a good deal, but nevertheless the fluctuations were on a rising market, and in December a notable advance, amounting to about 12 per cent., occurred.

RISE OF MEATS

On the whole, British meats have increased but little in price, but data gathered by the Department of Labor Statistics of the Board of Trade of the United Kingdom show that imported meat is much dearer than before the war. A sharp rise early in August was followed by a slight recession in the middle of that month. Since then the advance has been almost continuous, with the result that on Jan. 1 prices were much above those recorded at any other time during the war period to that date.

The price of flour, following an advance in the early part of August, fell off substantially, and remained at about 11 per cent. above the July level until the beginning of November, when it again began to mount upward. By the first of January the increase amounted to 20 per cent. The price of bread was less affected than that of flour. At the end of August it stood at about 8 per cent. above July, and at the end of December it was 5 or 6 per cent. higher.

The price of potatoes, after a substantial advance in the early part of August, fell continuously until the end of October, and though there has since been a slight advance, the prices on Jan. 1 were considerably below the level of July. It is

the only food which is now cheaper than before the war.

The average percentages by which prices on Jan. 1 exceeded the normal prices of July in towns having a population of more than 50,000 and in small towns and villages, are shown below:

Article.	P. C. Inc. since July.	Large	Small	Towns
	Towns.	Villages.	Towns.	Villages.
Beef—British—				
Ribs	8	6		
Thin Flank	15	8		
Chilled or Frozen—				
Ribs	18	15		
Thin Flank	22	21		
Mutton—British—				
Legs	6	5		
Breast	16	7		
Frozen—				
Legs	19	14		
Breast	28	21		
Bacon (streaky)	9	5		
Fish	51	31		
Flour (household)	18	23		
Bread	18	14		
Tea	14	13		
Sugar (granulated)	69	65		
Milk	6	7		
Potatoes	*11	*22		
Margarine	5	4		
Butter—Fresh	12	16		
Salt	10	14		
Cheese	10	10		
Eggs (fresh)	62	65		
All above articles (weighted net percentage increase)	19	17		
All above articles (weighted net percentage decrease)				

BERLIN PRICES

The latest month for which a record of Berlin prices is available is November. For that month the average prices of twenty foods, as reported by the Statistische Korrespondenz, show an increase over July of 20.9 per cent., compared with an increase of 16.4 per cent. in October. The prices are weighted according to consumption data derived from various German sources. Seventeen of the commodities showed increases, two were unchanged and one, mutton, showed a slight decrease.

The following table shows the percentage increases over July in the retail prices of the twenty commodities referred to above:

Article.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.	P.C.
Rye bread	14.3	10.7	14.3	10.7
Wheat bread (in rolls)	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7
Wheat flour	14.3	4.8	7.1	9.5
Rye flour	33.3	26.7	33.3	33.3
Butter	7.7	7.7	11.5	17.3
Lard	15.4	15.4	23.1	53.8
Sugar	10.0	**	**	**
Coffee	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2
Eggs	28.6	42.9	71.4	71.4
Milk	**	**	**	**
Beef	8.2	5.3	4.7	7.1
Mutton	6.4	0.5	*2.9	*4.4
Veal	5.4	*2.0	*1.0	0.5
Pork	7.4	4.3	8.0	11.7
Bacon	16.9	23.5	29.5	34.9
Potatoes	37.5	**	12.5	12.5
Rice	20.0	20.0	40.0	60.0
Split peas	57.5	60.0	110.0	142.5
Haricot beans	32.0	40.0	64.0	92.0
Lentils	30.0	40.0	75.0	116.7
All above articles (weighted net percentage increase)	13.3	10.5	16.4	20.9

*No change. **Decrease.

A dispatch from Berlin on Feb. 6 stated that bakers were complaining that imports of wheat and potatoes were not sufficient to maintain the necessary supply, and that stocks were being rapidly depleted. The Berlin Butchers' Union has called upon the Government to fix a maximum price for swine.

Balkan National Insurance Co. OF SOFIA, BULGARIA UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT, HARTFORD, CONN.

Transacting Fire Reinsurance Exclusively

Statement, December 31st, 1914

ASSETS	LIABILITIES
Bonds	\$1,381,429
Cash in Bank	467,897
Due from other Companies	189,753
Accrued Interest	18,955
Total	\$2,058,034
Non-Admitted Assets	1,479
\$2,056,555	\$2,056,555
Surplus to Policy Holders	572,174

WM. C. SCHEIDE & CO., Inc., Mgrs.
HARTFORD, CONN.

FEB 15

Consolidated Stock Exchange

Week Ended February 13

Sales.	First.	High.	Low.	Last.	Sales.	First.	High.	Low.	Last.	Sales.	First.	High.	Low.	Last.
490. ALASKA GOLD.....	28%	30%	28%	28%	110. C. Mil. & St. P. rights..	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	720. PENNSYLVANIA R. R. 105	106	104%	106	
30. Alaska Gold rights.....	25c	32c	25c	32c	20. Chino Copper.....	36	36%	36	36%	640. Pittsburgh Coal.....	18%	20%	18%	21
5,920. Amalgamated Copper....	53%	55%	52%	54%	130. Colorado Fuel & Iron....	24%	26	24%	26	10. Pittsburgh Coal pf.....	91	91	91	91
3,000. American Beet Sugar....	38%	42	37%	40%	340. Corn Products Refining....	9%	10%	9%	10%	10. Pressed Steel Car.....	31	31	31	31
2,630. American Can.....	28%	29%	27%	28%	1,450. ERIE.....	22%	22	22	22%	170. RAY CON. COPPER.....	17 1/2	17%	17%	17%
30. American Car & Foundry	45	45	44%	44%	20. Erie 1st pf.....	35%	35%	35%	35%	37,220. Reading.....	145	146 1/2	143	143%
380. American Cotton Oil....	48%	47%	47%	48%	10. GREAT NORTHERN pf. 11 1/4	11 1/4	11 1/4	11 1/4	11 1/4	20. Republic L. & S.	20%	20%	20%	20%
140. Am. Hide & Leather....	5%	5%	5%	5%	30. Gt. N. Cts. for Ore Prop. 34	34	34	34	34	20. Republic L. & S. pf....	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2
20. Am. Hide & Leather pf....	27%	27%	27%	27%	140. INSPIRATION COP....	18%	19%	18%	19%	2,260. SOUTHERN PACIFIC..	83%	85%	83	84%
10. Am. Ice Securities.....	24%	24%	24%	24%	450. Int.-Met. V. Tr. ctsf....	12%	13%	12%	12%	250. Southern Railway.....	15 1/2	16%	14%	16 1/2
30. American Locomotive ..	21%	22%	21%	22%	1,220. Int.-Met. pf.....	57%	58%	56%	57%	460. Studebaker Co.....	47	47%	46 1/2	46 1/2
3,960. Am. Smelting & Ref.	62%	67%	62%	65%	20. KANSAS CITY SO.	23	23	22	22%	80. TENNESSEE COPPER..	29%	30	29%	30
670. Am. Sugar Refining....	102%	105%	102%	104%	100. LEHIGH VALLEY....	134%	135	131%	133%	200. Third Avenue.....	40%	46%	45%	46 1/2
140. Anaconda Copper Co....	27%	28	27%	27%	60. MAXWELL MOTORS..	21	21	21	21	20. UNION B. & P. CO....	5%	5%	5%	5%
120. Atch., Top. & Santa Fe. 95	95 1/2	95	95%	95%	10. Maxwell Motors 2d pf....	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	11,600. Union Pacific.....	119	121 1/2	118 1/2	120
170. BALTIMORE & OHIO .. 60%	69%	68%	69%	69%	740. Mexican Petroleum....	76%	77 1/2	75%	76%	110. U. S. Rubber.....	56%	57 1/2	56%	57 1/2
3,065. Bethlehem Steel.....	55	57%	54%	55%	20. Mo. Kan. & Texas.....	11%	11%	11%	11%	17,650. U. S. Steel.....	40 1/2	44%	40 1/2	43%
100. Brooklyn Rapid Transit. 87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	1,180. Missouri Pacific.....	10%	12 1/2	10%	11%	160. U. S. Steel pf.....	104	105	103 1/2	105
880. CALIF. PETROLEUM.. 10%	21 1/2	19%	20%	20%	160. NATIONAL LEAD CO..	48%	51%	48%	51%	320. Utah Copper.....	52	54 1/2	53 1/2	53 1/2
20. Calif. Petroleum pf....	54%	54	54%	54%	1,450. New York Central....	88	88 1/2	84%	84 1/2	90. WABASH pf.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
730. Canadian Pacific.....	150	159 1/2	154%	158	260. New York, N. H. & H.	50%	50%	49	49	160. Western Union Tel....	63 1/2	64	63 1/2	63 1/2
4,490. Central Leather Co....	35	37%	35	36%	20. Norfolk & Western....	100%	100%	100%	100%	108,145				
170. Chesapeake & Ohio....	42	42	41 1/2	42	100. Northern Pacific.....	102%	104%	102%	104%					
350. Chi., Mil. & St. Paul....	87 1/2	88%	87 1/2	87										

DIVIDENDS DECLARED, AWAITING PAYMENT

STEAM RAILROADS

Pe- Pay- Books	Company.	Rate. riod. able.	Close.
Ala. St. So. pf. 3	—	Feb. 23	Jan. 23
At. T. & S. F. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Jan. 29
Balt. & Ohio. 2 1/2	S	Mar. 1	Feb. 1
Do pf. 2	S	Mar. 1	Feb. 1
Bellefonte Cen. 50c	Ex	Feb. 15	Jan. 30
Do pf. 50c	S	Feb. 15	Jan. 30
Buff. R. & P. 2	S	Feb. 15	Feb. 9
Do pf. 3	S	Feb. 15	Feb. 9
Can. Pacific. 2 1/2	S	Apr. 1	Mar. 1
Do pf. 2	S	Apr. 1	Mar. 1
Chi. & N. W. 1 1/2	Q	Apr. 1	Mar. 1
Do pf. 2	S	Apr. 1	Mar. 1
C. M. & St. P. 2 1/2	S	Mar. 1	Jan. 29
Do pf. 3 1/2	S	Mar. 1	Jan. 11
C. St. P. M. & O. com. & pf. 3 1/2	S	Feb. 20	Feb. 1
Cleve. & Pitts. reg. gtd. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 10
Do sp. gtd. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 10
Cr. Crib. Cent. 1	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 15
Do pf. 1	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 15
Del. & Hudson. 2 1/2	Q	Mar. 20	Feb. 25
Ill. Central. 2 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 8
M. St. P. & S. S. M. com. & pf. 3 1/2	S	Apr. 15	Mar. 19
Norf. & West. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 19	Feb. 27
Norf. & W. pf. 1	Q	Feb. 19	Jan. 30
North Penn. 2	Q	Feb. 25	Feb. 10
Pennsylvania. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 27	Feb. 1
Reading 1st pf. 1	Q	Mar. 11	Feb. 23
Phil. G. & N. \$1.50	Q	Mar. 4	Feb. 20
So. Pacific. 1 1/2	Q	Apr. 1	Feb. 27
Union Pacific. 2	Q	Apr. 1	Mar. 1
Do pf. 2	S	Apr. 1	Mar. 1
Wis. Cent. pf. 2	S	Apr. 1	Mar. 11

STREET RAILWAYS

Am. Ry. pf. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	*Jan. 30
Boston Elev. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	Feb. 6
Brazilian T. L. & P. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Jan. 30
Cent. Ark. Ry. & L. pf. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 15
Conn. Ry. & L. com. & pf. 1	Q	Feb. 15	*Feb. 1
Detroit United. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	*Feb. 13
Ill. Traction. 3	Q	Feb. 15	Feb. 1
Int. Tr. (Buff.) pf. 2	—	Feb. 15	Feb. 1
N. Texas Elec. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 13
Do pf. 3	—	Mar. 1	Feb. 13
Pacific G. & El. 1st pf. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	*Jan. 30
Do orig. pf. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	*Jan. 30
Phil. Co. 5% pf. 2 1/2	S	Mar. 1	*Feb. 10
Tampa Elec. 2 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	*Feb. 1
INDUSTRIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS			
Adams Exp. \$1	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 16
Am. Coper. 1/2	Q	Feb. 23	*Jan. 30
Am. Chiecle. 1/2	M	Feb. 20	*Feb. 15
Am. Coal. 3	S	Mar. 1	Feb. 27
Am. Graph. pf. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	Feb. 1
Am. La F. F. E. 1	—	Feb. 15	Feb. 1
Am. Radiator. 4	Q	Mar. 31	Mar. 22
Do pf. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	Feb. 8
Am. Sewer P. 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	Feb. 1
Am. Sm. & Ref. 1	Q	Mar. 15	Feb. 24
Do pf. 1 1/2	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 11
Am. Soda Foun. 1 1/2	Q	Feb. 15	Feb. 1
Am. Sugar Ref. com. & pf. 1 1/2	Q	Apr. 2	*Mar. 1
Am. Tobacco. 5	Q	Mar. 1	Feb. 13
Do pf. 1 1/2	Q	Apr. 1	Feb. 13
Atlantic Ref. 5	—	Mar. 15	Feb. 19
Bet. Steel pf. 1 1/2	Q	Apr. 1	Mar. 16
Bd. & Mtg. G. 4	Q	Feb. 15	Feb. 8
Bord. Con. Mk. 4	—	Feb. 15	Feb. 1

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HENRY B. PLATT, Vice-Pres. JON. A. FLUMM, Vice-Pres.
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781-2 Riggs Building, Washington, D. C.
MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS.
The New York Central Railroad Co.
New York, February 16th, 1915.
For the purpose of a Special Meeting of the Stockholders of this Company, called to be held at Albany, March 1st, 1915, the stock transfer books will be closed at 3:00 P. M., February 17th, 1915, and reopened on the morning of March 2d, 1915.
EDWARD L. ROSSITER, Treasurer.

Sales.	First.	High.	Low.	Last.	Sales.	First.	High.	Low.	Last.	Sales.	First.	High.	Low.	Last.
110. C. Mil.														

Reserve Banks

Statements on Pages 144-145

ACCEPTANCES

Federal Reserve Board Lays Down Rules Under Which These May Be Discounted or Purchased by the Central Institutions

FTER going over the ground thoroughly in conferences with the Advisory Council and the Governors of the Federal Reserve Banks, the Reserve Board announced last Friday the conditions under which the banks would be allowed to enter one of the new fields contemplated by the new currency law, discounting and dealing in acceptances based upon imports and exports. The board arrived at this definition of acceptances:

In this regulation the term "acceptance" is defined as a draft or bill of exchange drawn to order, having a definite maturity and payable in dollars, in the United States, the obligation to pay which has been accepted by an acknowledgment written or stamped and signed across the face of the instrument by the party on whom it is drawn; such agreement to be to the effect that the acceptor will pay at maturity according to the tenor of such draft or bill without qualifying conditions.

LAW'S PROVISIONS

The law provides that a Federal Reserve Bank may discount acceptances based on importation or exportation of goods, having a maturity of not more than three months and indorsed by at least one member bank. The amount of acceptances so discounted shall not exceed one-half the paid-up capital and surplus of the bank for which the rediscouts are made. The aggregate of bills and notes bearing the signature or indorsement of any one person, firm, or corporation rediscounted for any one bank shall at no time exceed 10 per cent. of the unimpaired capital and surplus of said bank; but this restriction does not apply to the discount of bills of exchange drawn in good faith against actually existing values.

Federal Reserve Banks are allowed to buy and sell in the open market bankers' acceptances, with or without the indorsement of a member bank. As to purchases, the board says:

While it would appear impracticable to fix a maximum sum or percentage up to which Federal Reserve Banks may invest in bankers' acceptances, both under Section 12 and Section 14, it will be necessary to watch carefully the aggregate amount to be held from time to time. In framing their policy with respect to transactions in acceptances, Federal Reserve Banks will have to consider, not only the local demands to be expected from their own members, but also requirements to be met in other districts. The plan to be followed must in each case adapt itself to the constantly varying needs of the country.

ACCEPTANCES AS RESERVE

On the subject of acceptances, the board says: The acceptance is the standard form of paper in the world discount market, and both on this account and because of its acknowledged liquidity universally commands a preferential rate. By reason of its being readily marketable it is widely regarded as a most desirable paper in the secondary reserves of banks and will help to provide an effective substitute for the "call loan." Its growth, however, will depend upon the ability of the American market to adjust its rates effectively to those prevailing in other markets for paper of this class.

Recognizing these facts, the Federal Reserve

Board has determined to allow the Federal Reserve Banks latitude in fixing rates for acceptances: Federal Reserve Banks may, from time to time, submit for the approval of the board maximum and minimum rates within which they desire to be authorized to deal in acceptances; within such limits, and subject to such modifications as may be imposed by the board, Federal Reserve Banks will be allowed to establish the rates at which they will deal in acceptances.

The board believes it to be in accordance with the spirit of the act to accord preferential treatment to acceptances bearing the indorsement of member banks, offered for rediscount under Section 12—even to the point of allowing lower rates for such acceptances, inasmuch as, under the terms of this section, such acceptances are available as collateral against the issue of Federal Reserve notes; and the board will sanction a slight preferential in favor of acceptances bearing the indorsement of member banks.

When acceptances bearing the indorsement of member banks are not obtainable in adequate amount or upon satisfactory terms, Federal Reserve Banks desiring to purchase acceptances should restrict themselves, as far as possible, the Reserve Board rules, to such acceptances as bear some other responsible signature (other than that of the drawer and the acceptor), and preferably that of a bank or banker.

New Securities Issues

RAILROADS

Denver & Salt Lake Railroad \$250,000 two-year 8 per cent. notes to reimburse the treasury for improvements, &c.

Eric Railroad, Erie & Jersey Railroad \$7,400,000 first mortgage 6 per cent. sinking fund bonds due July 1, 1955. Secured by a closed mortgage on part of the Erie's through freight line. Offered by Drexel & Co. and the Guaranty Trust Company at 104½ to yield over 5.79 per cent. Issued in coupon bonds of \$1,000 and in registered bonds in denominations of \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000.

Michigan Central \$4,000,000 first mortgage 3½ per cent. bonds, due May 1, 1952, completing the total authorized issue of \$18,000,000. The bonds

were sold by the road to J. P. Morgan & Co., which placed some of them privately and sold the balance to Kountze Brothers and William A. Read & Co.

New York Central \$100,000,000 6 per cent. debentures due May 1, 1935, convertible into common stock; at the rate of \$100 of stock for \$105 of bonds from May 1, 1917, to May 1, 1925, to be offered to the stockholders for subscription at par to the extent of 10 per cent. of their holdings. Issue authorized by the Directors subject to official approval. Underwritten at 97½ by a syndicate formed by J. P. Morgan & Co., the bankers receiving their compensation from the railroad.

Wisconsin Central Railway \$1,000,000 three-year 5 per cent. secured gold notes, guaranteed principal and interest by indorsement by Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railway, to be dated May 15, 1915, due Feb. 15, 1918, but redeemable as a whole on Feb. 15, 1917, or any previous interest date, at 101 and interest, and on Aug. 15, 1917, at 100½ and interest, on thirty days' notice. Placed privately by William A. Read & Co., subject to approval of Wisconsin Railroad Commission.

PUBLIC UTILITY

Nassau and Suffolk Lighting Company \$700,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds, dated February, 1915, and due February, 1945. Total authorized issue, \$5,000,000.

INDUSTRIALS

Inland Steel Company \$1,000,000 extension and refunding 6 per cent. Offered by First Trust Company of Chicago on a yield basis of 5.92 per cent. Amount of bonds now outstanding, including the present issue, \$1,500,000. Total authorized, \$10,000,000.

Rumely (M.) Company \$500,000 of an issue of \$1,500,000 first lien 6 per cent. Receivers' certificates to replace the \$100,000 issue authorized Jan. 20 and for other purposes in connection with the business.

Swift & Co., Chicago, \$11,500,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. bonds, due 1944. Part of an issue of \$50,000,000, of which there are now outstanding \$25,000,000, including the present issue. Negotiations covering these bonds closed with a syndicate consisting of Potter, Choate & Prentiss, White, Weld & Co., and the First Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago.

Agriculture

GRAIN PIT PROBLEMS

The Chicago Wheat Market Is Continually Developing New Problems, and Interest Is Being Diverted to the Coarser Cereals

Special Correspondence of The Annalist

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.

THE grain trade is standing on its head. European war developments create new problems for exporters, or new phases of old problems. Agitation over high prices is the chief concern. Exchange authorities insist that the law of supply and demand has put prices where they are, that wide fluctuations are due to lack of speculation, and that commission men are trying to keep the public out of the market, yet they fear repressive legislation. Farmers are the beneficiaries of high prices and bakers of low prices, but whoever is hurt always blames speculation. The Government's investigation has revealed no evidence, according to the grain interests, that the speculative machinery has injured producers or consumers in this instance; on the contrary, the Exchanges have demonstrated their usefulness to all concerned. Legislators are not easily convinced, however.

There is not much concern over a possible embargo upon exports of wheat and flour, as it is not believed existing contracts would be disturbed, or that any appreciable volume of available grain for export would then remain unsold. Nor is it believed that German and English blockades will seriously restrict the outward movement of bread-stuffs from the United States. Potential interruptions and interferences are highly disconcerting just the same. Only the shrewdest and strongest speculators can afford to take such long chances. When brokers demand 30 cents a bushel margin on new trades in wheat and turn business away, the average man should need no further warning. May wheat has become a cash proposition, and there is practically no stock of wheat here. There is no balance pole for the tight-rope walker.

Wheat-raisers are more disposed to sell their remaining surplus around \$1.50. New crop prospects are regarded as excellent. There is increasing appreciation of the economy induced by high prices. What big operators think, or do, is of trifling importance compared to what the women and old men of Europe accomplish in their fields and kitchens.

One hears much of winnings on the long side of wheat, but most of these reports are false or grossly exaggerated. The fact is few have made much on the 75 per cent. advance in price except the farmers. Some bulls have actually lost money

by getting in and out wrong. Prominent speculators, and some obscure speculators who average to trade about as heavily but never strut in the spotlight, have in some instances come through ahead because they traded conservatively and looked forward continuously. They are doing very little now, although it is rumored that a few Wall Street speculators have taken hold. There are a good many small eleventh-hour bulls here and throughout the country. Those who had presence and patience enough to buy wheat below \$1 and stand upon it for 30 to 50 cents a bushel profit, sold out before the \$1.50 mark was reached.

Naturally the interest has been diverted to coarse grains, corn and oats. Corn has had an advance that seemed remarkable in the face of enormous accumulation of that cereal at markets. Chicago has more than 18,000,000 bushels of it, or one-half the visible supply, and more than the entire visible last year. Receipts are lessening, but the export and domestic demand continues disappointing. Usually there is a big demand for shipment to the East when lake navigation opens. It is to be remembered that the last crop was not much above normal home needs, and that there is a growing demand for corn as food for man and beast.

Grain and Cotton Markets

Quotations last week were as follows:

Chicago

WHEAT

	—May—	—July—	Cash, No. 2 Red	
	High.	Low.	High.	Low.
Feb. 8.....	\$1.64½	\$1.62½	\$1.40½	\$1.37½
Feb. 9.....	1.64½	1.63½	1.40	1.38½
Feb. 10.....	1.63½	1.62½	1.39	1.38
Feb. 11.....	1.62½	1.50½	1.37½	1.35
Feb. 12.....	1.58	1.50	1.34	1.28½
Week's range	1.64½	1.50	1.40½	1.28½

CORN

	—May—	—July—	Cash, No. 3	
	High.	Low.	High.	Low.
Feb. 8.....	80½	79½	82½	80½
Feb. 9.....	81½	79½	82½	80½
Feb. 10.....	81½	80½	82½	80½
Feb. 11.....	81½	80½	82½	80½
Feb. 12.....	80½	79½	81½	80½
Week's range	81½	79½	82½	80½

OATS

	—May—	—July—	Cash, Standards	
	High.	Low.	High.	Low.
Feb. 8.....	60½	59½	57½	56
Feb. 9.....	61½	60½	58½	57
Feb. 10.....	61½	61½	57½	56½
Feb. 11.....	61½	60½	58½	57
Feb. 12.....	61	60½	57½	56½
Week's range	61½	59½	58½	56½

WHEAT

	—Mar.—	—May—	—July—	
	High.	Low.	High.	Low.
Feb. 8.....	8.70	8.60	8.95	8.85
Feb. 9.....	8.69	8.61	8.94	8.85
Feb. 10.....	8.67	8.63	8.94	8.86
Feb. 11.....	8.61	8.64	8.88	8.81
Feb. 12.....	8.52	8.42	8.76	8.66
Week's range	8.70	8.60	8.95	8.85

COTTON

	—Oct.—	—Dec.—	—Jan.—	
	High.	Low.	High.	Low.
Feb. 8.....	9.37	9.28	9.50	9.45
Feb. 9.....	9.37	9.27	9.50	9.40
Feb. 10.....	9.37	9.30	9.50	9.44
Feb. 11.....	9.32	9.24	9.46	9.40
Feb. 12.....	9.19	9.11	9.32	9.27
Week's range	9.37	9.11	9.50	9.38

Many Investors in ships or shipping shares do not realize the necessity of adequate marine and war risk protection.

Trustees for bondholders would do well to inquire as to their duties in this respect if they have not now definite knowledge.

Under present disturbed conditions more than mere cost is involved. It is important that vessels be so covered that indemnity will be payable under any contingency.

Frank B. Hall & Co.
Specialists in
Marine and War Risk Insurance
26 EXCHANGE PLACE, NEW YORK
Telephone 6767 Hanover

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